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Japan

Article Views Background of Auto Talks

952B0188A Tokyo SHUKAN YOMIURI in Japanese 11 Jun 95 pp 163-165

[By Kazuhiro Katayama]

[FBIS Translated Text] Perhaps it is because there has been nothing but bad news recently. In the Japan-U.S. automobile negotiations with Trade Minister Hashimoto, one felt compelled to cheer: "Way to go, Hashimoto." What is the reason behind Japan taking this strong stance, and what direction will economic sanctions take?

Employment Picture for 60,000 Will Become Shaky

The plan to purchase foreign parts became the focus of the negotiations.

Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto rejected Trade Representative Kantor's request for an addition of $19 billion to the target value agreed to when then-President Bush visited Japan in January 1992 with a "no," and negotiations that had lasted 20 months were broken off.

As a result of that, America announced sanctions on Japan based on trade law article 301. That would entail imposing a 100-percent import tariff on 13 luxury car models of the five big Japanese automakers, such as the Toyota Lexus, the Nissan Infinity, etc., and the scope of the sanctions would total $5.9 billion.

This turned into a complaint-filing contest when Japan immediately filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO), whereupon the American side also filed one of its own with the WTO citing Japan's unfair trade practices.

Nevertheless, $5.9 billion is a tremendous figure compared to the $300 million scale of the sanctions in the former semiconductor negotiations.

A calculation by the Japan Research Institute suggests that the damage to the automobile industry would approach 500 billion yen. In the U.S., market where profitability is worsening rapidly due to the strong yen, luxury cars are literal "gold mines," with their favorable profit ratio. According to a source inside a certain automaker, "[sanctions] might make about 70 percent of profits in the American market evaporate."

Moreover, the problem is not just confined to automobile makers. Because automobiles are made not only of parts from the parts-makers but also products from diverse areas, ranging from steel to machinery, textiles, sound systems, etc., the impact on industry as a whole will also be significant.

According to calculations made by the above research institute based on an industry-related table, decreased production by all industries would reach 1.5 trillion yen, which would mean surplus employment approaching 60,000 people for the industry as a whole.

Says institute assistant director Kenji Jumoto: "Because there are already moves afoot to stop exports and reduce production, there will likely be an impact on economic conditions for one or two months whether sanctions are implemented or not."

The Ryutaro Hashimoto Versus Clinton Farce

Even though such an imposing list of sanctions was thrust under its nose, MITI [Ministry of Internatinal Trade and Industry] is maintaining its tough stance, saying: "Even though the list has been announced, it is highly unlikely that it will be implemented."

According to one economic journalist: "MITI is hanging tough in any event. So much so that it is telling automobile makers don't do anything to drop the ball.' Usually the Japanese side is the first to look for points on which to compromise, but this time they are keeping their strong stance."

One senses from the bits and pieces of MITI movements that there is an eagerness to try to change the history of economic negotiations between Japan and the United States, which had been a succession of unilateral concessions.

Even in the automobile industry, the situation is that "although there was still some reserve power at the time in 1992 when the parts-purchasing plan was created, now, due to having reached the limit in domestic demand and the high yen, no more reserve power is available. Even though we are asked to make further increases, what is impossible is impossible," says an employee at one automaker; so the auto industry is solidifying in a position of support of MITI.

It could be said that things are proceeding according to the trade scenario, but even Trade Minister Hashimoto, who appeared on the stage as a "player," is not merely putting on a performance that follows a script.

According to the view of political commentator Mr. Kichiya Kobayashi: "When one sees the way he is slugging it out in such a grandstanding manner, one gets a deep sense that this is a performance with a view to the post-Murayama' period."

"Amid the continuation of the frazzled administration, there must be an aim to appeal to a feeling of severity. Besides, it will be to his advantage later on if he can use this to get the automobile industry on his side. Because there are no zoku-Diet members who are overwhelmingly strong in automobiles, it should be easy to maneuver."

A tough stance in which the interests of all points of view coincide. When this happens, a breakdown in negotiations could almost be characterized as being in accord with a predetermined plan.

This gives rise to such extreme views as those held by economic commentator Mr. Kazuaki Kajiwara: "It is a joint farce between Ryutaro Hashimoto, who has his eyes on the post-Murayama period, and Clinton, who wants to appear to be a strong president' heading into next year's presidential election. It is a political issue instead of an economic one."

Sanctions a Good Excuse for Restructuring

As for the political issue portion, there will probably be a laying down of arms once the face saving is over with. But what about the economic issue? There are observations that doubt that America's automobile industry really has all that much willingness to go through with it.

The Big Three (General Motors, Ford, Chrysler), which have regularly influenced what moves the U.S. government will make, have been doing well for the past several years. Moreover, as a result of the strong yen, the surplus of Japanese automobiles with respect to the United States has declined; U.S.-made parts have increased their price competitiveness in Japan, and sales of Japanese cars in the U.S. could not avoid a decline. At present, there is not a sense of urgently having to thoroughly bash Japan.

An economic journalist says: "The Big Three, rather than wanting to sell cars in Japan, want to distance Japan from the U.S. market. Therefore, this time, too, I suspect that instead of solving the friction, their true feelings are that they would prefer to leave problems with Japan as they are to be used as a trump card when times are tough."

Meanwhile, what about Japan's automobile industry?

Mr. Kajiwara's view is that "recent negotiations will not hurt automakers regardless of how they shake out.

"There are already excessive inventories of most of the cars in America subject to the sanctions, so automakers were entering a period in which adjustment of production would be necessary anyway. These negotiations will become a good excuse for restructuring. As a matter of fact, Toyota has already stopped overtime on its production lines. Instead, it would be an even bigger blessing if the yen becomes weak as a result of the sanctions."

In this light, there is no value for anyone to fight until there is bloodletting.

Consequently, "in the final analysis," says the economic journalist, "I suspect that MITI is aiming to strike a bargain through such things as reinforcement of local production and local parts procurement. The American side is also close to an election, so it would probably be easy to get out of it if the justification of contributing to employment domestically in America' were to be made," giving increased force to the view that the sanctions will not be implemented.

Japanese Consumers Are at a Disadvantage

Somehow the discussion has come to take on a Japanese-type of indefinite ending. So it may be that there is not that much need to fear sanctions, but will that really be the end of it?

Hiroaki Tanabe, Ford Japan's public relations liaison section head, stresses: "What kind of misconception is the trade minister operating under?

"At the heart of America's case is the question of how to rectify the trade imbalance between Japan and the United States.' That needs to be addressed or else not only will there be no solutions forthcoming, the yen will become stronger still if it is left alone. In the end the ones who will suffer will be Japan's industry."

In that case, as one might have expected, deregulation will become the focus of attention. Even when one looks at the reaction of the European states, although they support Japan on the parts-purchasing plan issue, there are strong voices of agreement with America regarding the closed nature of Japan's trading practices.

"Regardless of what happens in the negotiations this time, deregulation is an issue that must be carried forward. The vehicle-inspection system, registration procedures, the difference in trade practices of keiretsu, etc., are substantial obstacles to the entry of foreign cars," says Mr. Kajiwara.

An example is the procedures involved when one tries to purchase a car.

Although it is considered normal in Japan for procedures to take about a week before the new car one has purchased is delivered, according to Mr. Tanabe: "When you buy a car in America, a temporary tag is put on the car right on the spot and you can drive it home from the dealership. That is why the unit sales quantity per salesman in Japan averages about half of that in America. This is because so much time is taken in registration and proof of having secured parking space, among other things."

With all the troublesome procedures and inspections, etc., Japanese consumers are at even more of a disadvantage than the foreign manufacturers. It appears that one should consider carefully whether or not to cheer the "Ryutaro Hashimoto performance."

Article Views U.S.-Japan Auto Talks

952B0192A Tokyo SENTAKU in Japanese Jun 95 pp 70-71

[FBIS Translated Text] Automobile trade talks between Japan and the United States finally stalled, prompting both nations to file suits with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in a confrontational course. Japan's refusal to meet the U.S. demands, followed by the shift of the negotiation venue to Geneva, the WTO's home, from Washington, is the scenario envisioned by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) from the start. The confidence of MITI hard-liners has increased because the trade talks have progressed as they hoped. Still, what are their chances for success in the upcoming negotiations?

"We can finally go to Geneva." Ryutaro Hashimoto, the minister of international trade and industry, and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Mickey Kantor failed to reach an agreement on the auto trade issue in cabinet-level discussions in early May in Canada. Despite the stalemate, the mood of MITI officials just after the meetings was strangely victorious. Yoshihiro Sakamoto, the deputy vice-minister of MITI, was among these.

MITI trade officials had long anticipated the U.S. initiative to bring the dispute to the WTO, or the "move to Geneva." It was just a question of when. In fact, they had looked forward to negotiating the matter under the auspices of the WTO, given the persistent U.S. calls for Japanese auto makers to increase their purchases of U.S.-made parts in the past year. In previous trade negotiations with the United States, Japan has been pressured into concessions due to its weaker political stand. MITI hard-liners sought to end this pattern by bringing the talks to a multilateral setting and finding support for Japan's position in international trade rules. Thus, the move to the WTO is an answer to their prayers. "Japan will now free itself from the sorry pattern of granting concession upon concession in negotiations with the United States." It was only natural for MITI bureaucrats to revel in victory.

U.S. Action on Sanctions Not Anticipated

MITI officials are confident that Japan will win in the WTO's "judicial process."

If the United States imposes sanctions against Japan under Section 301 of the U.S. trade law, it will clearly violate the WTO's fundamental principles. Section 301 allows the United States to implement sanctions against any country that engages in unfair trade practices. Fortunately for Japan, the WTO's dispute-resolution mechanism has more teeth than that of its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Meanwhile, European and other Asian nations, which have also suffered unilateral action by the United States, have expressed support for Japan. In a recent visit to Geneva, MITI Deputy Vice-Minister Sakamoto succeeded in fanning criticism of the United States among senior officials in the WTO's secretariat and other nations' WTO representatives. A MITI division head who participated in multilateral negotiations under the Uruguay Round has the following to say: "Negotiating with the United States is like a game. We are just progressing in accordance with the rules of the game."

When U.S.-Japan economic ties have become strained in the past, calls for concession have invariably escalated in Japan. This time, however, the public outcry against MITI's hard-line stance has been negligible.

MITI has also regained the confidence of the prime minister's office. Hiroyuki Sonoda, deputy chief cabinet secretary, is not worried about the future course of the trade dispute. He says that "the odds are in Japan's favor at the WTO." Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama says that he has entrusted the matter to Mr. Hashimoto. Mr. Hashimoto frequently advises Mr. Murayama and essentially dictates Japan's economic policy due to Mr. Murayama's lack of expertise in this sphere.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is even in accord with MITI, despite its frequent irritation over MITI's involvement in foreign policy negotiations in the past. Also significant is the promotion of Sadayuki Hayashi, who sympathizes with MITI on economic issues, to administrative vice-minister of foreign affairs from deputy vice-minister, following the Halifax summit.

Meanwhile, MITI's influence is also growing in the government centers of Nagatacho and Kasumigaseki. MITI lost considerable ground after the "Naito incident" in late 1993, but regained its footing recently, in part because the rival Ministry of Finance lost some of its leverage. In addition, it has benefited from Mr. Hashimoto's reputation as the No. 1 policy expert of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Although Mr. Hashimoto would have probably been thwarted in the days of factional politics under LDP rule, he is unlikely to attract opposition under today's coalition administration. Having won the strong political backing of Mr. Hashimoto, MITI refuses to give in to the United States in auto talks in theory and principle.

Japan's automobile industry supports MITI's negotiation stance, according to Toyota Motor Corporation Chairman Shoichiro Toyoda. Nissan Motor Company President Yoshifumi Tsuji says that he is "resigned" to the U. S. move to draw up a list of automobiles targeted for sanctions. Auto industry support does not reflect an agreement with MITI's assertion that "managed trade must be rejected and free trade protected." Instead, the auto industry wants to put a stop to U.S. interference, which takes the form of demands such as "buy our parts, or we'll impose sanctions." Thus, agreeing with MITI makes sense from a business-profit standpoint.

Having won the support of Japan's political and industrial worlds, MITI is confident that it "can win" in the auto trade negotiations.

MITI recently conducted an in-depth simulation of the future course of the automobile trade issue through the Americas Division of its International Trade Policy Bureau and the Automobile Division of its Machinery and Information Industries Bureau. Its analysis was based on information collected from MITI officials who transferred from the Japanese embassy in the United States and the staff of JETRO's [expansion unknown] New York office. The most likely scenario that emerged from the simulation is as follows: "The United States will not take action on sanctions. Instead, it will withdraw its key demand for increased purchases of U.S.-made parts by this summer or autumn, without losing face." This is because the Clinton administration will be forced to reverse its position in response to the outlook for failure at the WTO, the escalation of U.S. opposition to its stance and the chorus of international criticism of the U.S. auto trade with Japan is unlikely to be an issue in the upcoming presidential election. Thus, MITI predicts that "President Clinton will not force the issue further."

WTO Suit No Solution

Still, isn't there a down side to MITI's winning scenario? The United States and Japan have different conceptions of the WTO, a fact that has been overlooked. Japan expects the WTO to uphold free trade whereas the United States does not attach much importance to the WTO's existence due to its traditional recognition of national sovereignty. The U.S. move to begin procedures for the implementation of sanctions, despite the acknowledgment that Section 301 of the U.S. trade law contradicts WTO rules, reflects its belief that domestic law always supersedes international law. However, it is incorrect to assume that the United States would withdraw from the WTO because of a difference in opinion. This is because the United States could also use the WTO to supplement its trade policy on occasion. Furthermore, it is unlikely to disassociate itself from the WTO because of its desire to maintain a leading role in world politics. The United States will only use the WTO to its own advantage, not when its own interests are under fire. This is the reality.

In the United States, an argument that is more obvious than the issue of whether or not Section 301 violates WTO principles has gained popularity. This is the notion that "Japan's huge trade surplus with the United States is attributable to the closed nature of the Japanese market." USTR Kantor has convinced the United States public with speech statements like "Japanese automobiles account for 25 percent of the United States trade deficit with Japan." Only a few intellectuals recognize the fair argument that the Big Three auto makers have failed to make a concerted sales effort in Japan.

In reality, the Clinton administration plans to pierce the closed nature of the Japanese market. The United States has also become enthusiastic about a hard-line stance on trade issues. Thus, a confrontation between Japanese hard-liners and their U.S. counterparts is inevitable.

MITI had no choice but to bring the automobile trade dispute to the WTO because the U.S. approach violates international trade rules. Still, the problem is deep-rooted, given that WTO intervention will not necessarily resolve anything.

The United States has now made automobile trade the focus of Japan's trade surplus with the United States. This is a departure from its past view that "the surplus ought to resolved from a macroeconomic standpoint, not by individual market sectors." That was before its annual trade deficit with Japan swelled to more than $50 billion. If Japan does not reduce its trade surplus following the transfer of the automobile trade issue to WTO auspices, the United States will remain on a hard-line course and the issue will become further politicized. The trade discussions at the U.S.-Japan summit meeting, scheduled for mid-June, will likely be heated. The Japanese government has failed to implement effective measures for reducing Japan's trade surplus, despite its persistent claims that it is working toward this goal. There is no guarantee that this lack of progress will not fuel the U.S. distrust of Japan.

Outcome of Auto Negotiations With U.S. Viewed

OW1007114795 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Jul 95 Morning Edition p 11

[Second article in three-part series by reporter Reiko Hayasaka: "Defective Auto Agreement: Though the

Domestic Market Was Defended by Desperate Efforts, Consumers Were Indifferent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was when the auto negotiations in Geneva entered a final phase. A senior Toyota Motor Corporation official boastfully said: "There are many ways to satisfy U.S. demands."

Needless to say, he was referring to the voluntary plans for the expansion of car production abroad that were used by Japanese negotiators as a trump card in the auto negotiations with the United States. Both Japan and the United States, which have confronted each other head-on over the auto issue, have begun showing subtle changes in their stances in the auto negotiations since U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mondale met with Shoichiro Toyoda, president of the Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan (and chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation), shortly prior to the resumption of auto negotiations in Geneva. Although Toyota has denied its chairman met with the U.S. ambassador, it is not hard to imagine that the voluntary plans were taken up for discussion at the meeting.

Yet Japanese negotiators had the problem of how best to use the trump card in the auto negotiations. The private sector cannot outwardly lead any governmental negotiations. On the other hand, the government cannot press the private sector for any plans. What came from the Japan-U.S. auto negotiations was an unprecedented agreement document. Figures of the voluntary plans for the purchase of U.S.-made auto parts by Japanese automakers and the imports of cars built by five major Japanese automakers in the United States to Japan were left blanked out.

The Japan-U.S. agreement was a document symbolizing a "farfetched agreement," but the United States wanted that kind of agreement. The United States released its own document that filled in all the blanks with its own estimates.

Since both Tokyo and Washington reached the agreement, Japanese automakers cannot completely dismiss it. Japanese automakers will have to speedily move their auto production offshore, especially to North America, over the next three years as expressly stipulated in the agreement.

They need to invest huge amounts of money to increase their car production abroad and car production in Japan will fall as the Japanese automakers move their production offshore. The Japanese auto market is about to mature. Japan has to think of what it should do to deal with a redundant work force from the relocation of car production offshore amid the limited domestic demand for cars. It is certain that in a bid to head off the hollowing out of industry, Japanese enterprises are shifting their business priorities to the information network and services and are desperately seeking to form tie-ups with competing enterprises.

With regard to the expanded purchase of U.S.-made auto parts in the Japanese market, no figures were incorporated in the agreement document on the increased purchase of U.S.-made auto parts by Japanese automakers and on imports of U.S.-built cars to Japan; however, figures were included in the document on the increase of the number of Japanese car dealerships selling foreign cars. In the end, the domestic market was able to remain intact. In other words, it can be said that the Japanese auto industry succeeded in defending the domestic market at the expense of local car production in the United States. With regard to the ratio of local content, the present situation is that "Japanese automakers have already purchased all the U.S.-made auto parts they can and considerable efforts will be needed to increase their purchase of U.S.-made auto parts" (says a senior Nissan Motor Company official). The Japanese automakers cannot simply increase their purchase of U.S.-made auto parts.

In any case, the United States dropped its plans to impose sanctions against Japanese-built luxury cars. A major Japanese automaker says: "U.S. consumers scrambled to buy Japanese luxury cars before the U.S. sanctions drove up their prices by about two times, thereby pushing up the demand for the cars in the United States and the stock of Japanese luxury cars in the United States drew down moderately. The U.S. sanctions threat did not generate only bad things." The auto agreement will have no adverse effect on the Japanese auto industry for the time being.

What on earth are the auto negotiations that caused so much fuss? It can be said that the Clinton administration, which is aiming for Clinton's reelection, desperately struggled to win a favor from the U.S. automobile industry, which has great influence on U.S. voters. It seems that Ryutaro Hashimoto, minister of international trade and industry, negotiated with his U.S. counterpart in line with his highly political intentions.

What was notable is that consumers in Japan and the United States were indifferent to the outcome of the auto negotiations. Needless to say, there were concerns that the auto negotiations' breakdown would develop into a political issue, including the security between Japan and the United States. Yet even if the sanctions were actually imposed on Japanese luxury cars, it would have no direct impact on Japanese consumers. This is why consumers both in Japan and the United States were cool to the auto negotiations' outcome.

DA Wants Threat of DPRK Guerrillas Weighed

OW0807093195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0917 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO — The Defense Agency [DA], for the first time ever, has asked that a review of the nation's defense program allow for the possibility of a guerrilla incursion from North Korea, government sources said Saturday [8 July].

The agency's request is part of its contribution to the post-Cold War era review now under way under the national defense program outline.

The agency's draft new version of the outline calls for emphasis to be shifted away from preparation for a small-scale invasion to readiness for a multifaceted crisis.

It would be the first time for the defense program to go so far as to ponder anything as specific as the possibility of a post-Cold War threat from North Korea in the form of a guerrilla incursion.

The concept is certain to stir debate within the nation's top security body, the Security Council of Japan, which is chaired by the prime minister. The council hopes to adopt a revised version of the program outline late this year.

The agency made its intentions known at a meeting in late June with Finance Ministry officials, the sources said.

They said the agency's assessment is based on North Korea's buildup of its military strength despite its economic difficulties, and uncertainties over the future of an agreement between the United States and North Korea designed to stop Pyongyang from pursuing a suspected nuclear weapons program.

The agency is also concerned over North Korea's development of long-range missiles with a range of more than 1,000 kilometers, the sources said.

The agency has intelligence indicating North Korea possesses a number of military units specializing in guerrilla warfare and therefore wants Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to be equipped with up-to-date technology to cope with such a threat and the pace of proposed reduction in SDF troops to be slowed down, the sources said.

They said the agency considers that in the event of a disturbance on the Korean peninsula, Japan could face the same situation as Saudi Arabia, which came under the threat of missile attack from Iraq during the Gulf War.

But the sources said that while the Finance Ministry accepts North Korea's military buildup and its potential ability to invade Japan, the ministry considers it "unrealistic" to draw up a scenario for an invasion as part of the revision of the defense program.

The current program was adopted in 1976 at the height of the Cold War.

EPA Reports Economic Recovery at 'Standstill'

OW1107012395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0107 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, July 11 KYODO — Japan's economic recovery has come to a standstill, the government announced in its official report Tuesday [11 July], giving a more pessimistic assessment than the "moderate recovery phase" in the past months.

"The trend of mild economic recovery has come to a halt," said the monthly report prepared by the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), which was presented to the day's meeting of economic ministers.

The agency, which in September last year effectively declared the economy's emergence from a long recession that began in May 1991, was apparently forced to reverse its view in response to a recent series of dismal statistics and trends.

Among these are the long depression of stock prices, the strength of the yen, the decline in industrial production and the slumping real estate market. Near-zero growth in last fiscal year's real gross domestic product, creeping fears of deflation and a heavy weight on banks due to nonperforming loans are also negative factors.

But an EPA official stuck to the view that the economy is fundamentally on a moderate recovery, although a statement to this effect was removed from the latest report for the first time since the agency adopted it in December last year.

"The downside risk is just getting bigger than before," the official told reporters.

"The current standstill represents a pause in the ongoing recovery and therefore it is not correct to say the economy is receding," he said, apparently reflecting the agency's fear that an explicit pessimism would have an adverse effect on corporate morale.

The latest reassessment was shown amid growing criticism that the agency has not correctly grasped the reality of the Japanese economy.

Last week, Bank of Japan chief Yasuo Matsushita also painted a gloomier picture, saying, "economic recovery has stalled a bit."

These movements followed the government's new pump-priming package in June, which proved discouraging on the economic front as it was widely seen as containing few fresh steps.

The report said the economy was previously on a recovery trend paced by public investment and housing investment.

It is now in "a transitional phase from such a pickup to recovery led mainly by personal consumption and corporate capital spending," the report said.

However, this stage of mild economic recovery has come to a standstill, the report said, citing flat exports, a pause in output growth and slow recovery in corporate confidence.

It pointed to frail housing investment, the strong yen and the slowing U.S. economy as factors behind the phenomenon.

"We remain in a transitional stage. We have yet to pass on to the next stage of recovery," said the agency official.

As a way to make recovery certain, the report emphasized the need for steady implementation of the June 27 package, designed to effectuate a set of steps released in April to combat the strong yen.

Public works projects should be carried out smoothly and such fiscal steps should be additionally budgeted in the second half of this year, the report said.

Deregulation should be promoted further while ways should be ensured to stabilize employment and to alleviate hardship gripping small firms, it said.

The report also cited the need to restore order in the battered financial system and revitalize the securities market.

Panel Urges End to Farm Price Maintenance System

OW0607133295 Tokyo KYODO in English
1300 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, July 6 KYODO — Members of a governmental panel considering deregulation called for the government Thursday [6 July] to abolish the system of maintaining prices of agricultural products at certain levels to protect farmers, sources close to the group said.

The price maintenance system is imposing heavy financial burdens on consumers, economist Naoki Tanaka and other members said at their meeting with officials of the Agricultural Ministry, according to the sources.

They also quoted the members as saying the system is hindering the growth of motivated rice growers while confectioners are moving plants outside Japan to secure low-priced materials.

Panel members called on the government to replace the price maintenance system with a guarantee of income for farmers so as not to affect prices of agricultural products, the sources said.

The panel intends to include a review of the price maintenance system in its report on deregulation due to be compiled in November, the sources said.

But the plan to review the system is expected to meet strong resistance from ministry officials and lawmakers representing agricultural constituencies, they added.

Mori Backs Use of Public Funds for Bad Loans

OW0907041895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0413 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, July 9 KYODO — The secretary general of the dominant coalition partner, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), on Sunday [9 July] expressed determination to resolve as soon as possible the issue of nonperforming loans shouldered by the nation's financial institutions through the use of public funds.

Appearing on a TV Asahi program, Yoshiro Mori said he wants to settle the bad loan problem at an extraordinary Diet session as one of the key measures to boost the country's flagging economy. The extra Diet session is expected to be convened right after the July 23 House of Councillors election.

His comments are taken as suggesting the use of public money to help the financial institutions write off their nonperforming loans estimated by the Finance Ministry at some 40 trillion yen.

Mori, however, said the financial institutions should disclose information on management and make clear who will take responsibility for the bad loans as well as how it will be taken.

On the sluggishness stock market, Mori stressed the importance of moving stock prices by such means as removing the securities transaction tax.

In a new policy agreement announced by Japan's three ruling parties, of which the LDP is the largest bloc, the parties promised to devise a program to tackle the bad loan issue by the fall Diet session.

'Sources': Credit Union Head Diverted Funds

OW0807140795 Tokyo KYODO in English
1318 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO — The central figure in a financial scandal leading to the collapse of two credit unions disbursed some 1.1 billion yen received from one of the credit unions to 16 firms linked to him to cover interest payments, informed sources said Saturday [8 July].

The flow of funds to the 16 companies occurred between January and February 1994.

Harunori Takahashi, former president of Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association, diverted funds which Akeno Ecotopia, an inactive tourist development firm linked to him, received as loans from Anzen Credit Bank, the sources said.

On June 27, Takahashi and former Anzen President Shinsuke Suzuki were arrested on suspicion of breach of trust by making illegal loans from the unions to companies the two executives were closely connected with.

Investigators suspect that Takahashi used Akeno Ecotopia as a vehicle for financing his personal loans and interest payments for his firms.

Akeno Ecotopia had 7.33 billion yen in loans from Anzen as of November last year.

NFP's Ichikawa Views Role of SDF, PKO

952A0672A Tokyo SEKAI in Japanese 1 Jun 95
pp 269-273

[Interview with Yuichi Ichikawa, chairman, Shinshinto [New Frontier Party: NFP] policy committee, by unnamed reporter; place and date not given: "On a Separate Unit Within the SDF"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ichikawa] Creating the Peacekeeping Operations [PKO] Law was a bitter experience. However, the law was ultimately created and even though it was not in a really adequate form, Japan was able to participate in PKO. For Japan as it exists in the post-Cold War global community, I think this was an extremely significant thing. When the PKO Bill passed, the SDPJ [Social Democratic Party of Japan], which put up quite a lot of opposition by doing such things as the ox-walk strategy and, even though they did not resign in the end, requesting that Diet members resign, finally compromised in a short time, saying that PKO participation under the five principles that we were advocating would be acceptable. I think that our choice was the right one and that there has been a degree of expansion in the understanding and agreement of the nation concerning international cooperation through PKO.

[SEKAI] Looking back to the point of the initial three-party agreement, the Komeito was advocating a separate organization from the SDF [Self-Defense Force], but ultimately it ended up with this form of SDF participation. To your way of thinking, was that choice not mistaken?

[Ichikawa] I do not think it was a mistake. I think that a separate organization from the SDF exists as an ideal argument. However, as a realistic argument, I suspect that the time has come to consider a separate organization within the framework of the SDF. This organization would be involved not only in PKO activities but also would be concerned with international disaster relief unit in natural disasters.

For that purpose, I think that it is acceptable for the current SDF to be the basis on which that could be developed. It would be the foundation for disaster relief activities or for exercises for the application of the PKO Law. While it would be within the framework of the SDF, it would be devoted to so-called PKO activities or participating in international relief forces instead of national defense. That type of thing would be created in the form of a separate organization inside the SDF, and the training, facilities, and equipment necessary for it would be kept separate from the current SDF. Although it would require some budgeting, I think that this is the direction we should aim for in the future.

In that case, then, because it would be counted as a defense expense, it should not be criticized as being military expansion when the amount needed for defense expenses increases. Of course, I naturally think that bold inquiries should be made into the nature of the SDF as it relates to national defense to adjust to post-Cold War international circumstances.

[SEKAI] Is the expression of creating a specialized organization within the SDF appropriate?

[Ichikawa] It would, after all, be a separate organization within the SDF. For instance, in unstable regions, it would probably cause some trouble if camouflaged C-130 cargo planes fly over. It would probably be safer for the C-130 to be painted with the bright UN colors.

Also, I actually witnessed what is referred to as PKO exercises in Europe, but the way the exercises are carried out and the training content is substantially different from the so-called military forces. In short, imagining and destroying an enemy is a common point in troop training and exercises in any country. In the case of PKO, since it is based on the premise that a conflict must not be caused, it is different in many senses, because one tries to have patience and not abruptly attempt to solve trouble through force. Of course, such things as how to operate rifles, how soldiers handle themselves in hazardous zones or when undertaking self-sufficient activites naturally come into play in SDF exercises. However, because the whole philosophy is completely different, I think that training will comprise an extremely critical role, especially since one must learn a foreign language, as well as such things as the lifestyle and customs, regional situation and historical circumstances of the country to which one is dispatched, or risk causing uninvited trouble. When all is said and done, I think that there is little choice but to utilize the SDF's organization.

Having said that, however, I have some questions concerning suddenly sending troops off after a few weeks of training with the current SDF system. Although personnel exchange may be permissible, I think that it should be a separate organization whose members receive specialized training.

[SEKAI] At present, there are land, sea, and air staff offices, but would this entail creating a fourth staff office, as it were, and inserting a definite unit inside it?

[Ichikawa] It would be set up as an exchange of personnel from the main SDF to which members would belong, whether it is for three years or one year or whatever. Then exercises would be conducted under a specialized curriculum. In other words, it would be the same sort of idea as the UN standby forces.

[SEKAI] Will you be able to obtain a consensus inside the Shinshinto?

[Ichikawa] The leadership is debating it, but there has not been all that much strong exception taken. The point has been made of not putting too much strain on the budget. However, in that case it would probably be a good idea to more seriously review the nature of the old SDF. With the "Defense Plan Outline" having pretty much ended, even though it is about time that a post-"Outline" plan must be debated, there has been no indication of that being done.

In 1989, the Cold War ended and the so-called potential enemy nation disappeared. It was debated in NATO what menace Europe would be protected from in the future. I was also concerned and visited the deputy commander in chief of NATO and was told that it would "deal with danger."

At that time, there were problems in the Middle East and the situation in Afghanistan had still not completely settled down. He was saying that when a conflict begins in the NATO region and the influence of that conflict extends to NATO nations, for instance, when refugees flock into a nation, how to handle that sort of situation is what they were thinking about. For a long time the Soviet Union was regarded as the potential enemy nation, but it has ceased to be so. He was frankly saying that they were having trouble quickly putting their finger on the nature of the new threat.

However, the Japanese Defense Agency was not very frank. They repeated the same extremely archaic sounding answers as before, saying that there are still nuclear weapons in Russia; that there were still numerous regular Russian troops around the coastal areas, etc. In Europe, I have heard that they are debating irreversible defense systems that cannot be converted to offensive objectives. They are groping for that kind of defense philosophy conversion. My argument was that although the original idea in the foundation of Japan's "Outline" was to be dedicated to defense only and extricating Japan from the East-West Cold War, since Afghanistan the Defense Agency has for all practical purposes abandoned that and has instead expanded the military using the "Outline." Certainly nowadays that "Outline" does not specify any potential enemy nations. No one is going to believe the Defense Agency if it says that it is based on a defensive capability that was created to extricate us from the East-West Cold War in the first place.

While the "Outline" originally did not encompass everything, the intention was to rate it on its own merits, but the Defense authorities destroyed the framework. With the idea of skillfully using the "attached list," if there was a quantitative match, a qualitative doubling was acceptable, the fact of calculating the anti-sub P2J patrol boat and the P3C patrol boat, whose performance is entirely different, as the same equipment is an absurd method of calculation. On top of that, because military technology is rapidly advancing, military weaponry must also be renewed correspondingly, so on the other hand, they used the logic that it is not essential to be tied down to the "attached list."

Once that is said, though, there is absolutely no significance in having created an "attached list," and in that case it would be better to create a new "attached list" in response to technological advances, but they do not do that.

Recently, the Defense Agency has also begun to speak of "dealing with danger." But after all there is none. They cannot identify just what menace they will protect Japan from. I think that is why they end up talking this way. That being the case, they will always be stuck on having tanks on land and having escort vessels on the sea, and since the main duty of those escort ships is their anti-sub function, their chief objective is more searching for submarines than for protecting Japanese territory. In order to protect those escort ships, they say that they will introduce Aegis ships, making for an extremely unbalanced equipment system. I believe that the time has come to fundamentally rethink the nature of Japan's defense.

As a part of that reorganization, I believe that it would be good to contemplate using an international disaster relief unit of the SDF in the event of a natural disaster. When one considers the recent Osaka-Kobe earthquake, it seems apparent that the SDF has not seriously engaged in disaster relief exercises up to now. Not only was there insufficient budgeting, equipment and practice was inadequate. Not enough preparation had been made to dispatch the SDF for disaster relief. Considered in that light, if the ideal form of the SDF is that disaster relief should be made one of its functions, we should consider a reorganization for that purpose. One issue with the "separate organization" that I speak of, concerning whether or not to consider including a domestic disaster relief force, is that if it is expanded that much, the separate organization could become the larger of the organizations. That is a matter that requires coordinated discussion. In any event, it can be asserted that the current SDF does not possess sufficient preparedness for disaster relief. Its frontal equipment is flashy, but its logistical support is in tatters. I think it is likely that the reason for the long division in the national debate on the constitutionality of the SDF is that the debate did not enter into how to utilize the SDF for disaster relief.

The more I listen the more it seems that it will not stop with mere revision of the PKO, but that it is an issue that will inevitably tie in with a revision of the overall defense policy.

Although the sudden creation of a separate organization would be extremely difficult, it is best in consideration of Japan's future that such debate should begin. I have been advocating for some time creating a PKO exercises center in Asia using Japanese funds. Then people of the nations of Asia and from Japan's SDF could engage in exchange and prepare for the event that PKO activities become necessary in the Asian region. While receiving the same necessary training for PKO activities, Japan would be genuinely trying to engage in pure PKO and even though there is a mistaken idea in Asia about Japan contemplating aggression by sending its SDF troops overseas, I think that tenacious efforts should be made in order to dispel that misunderstanding.

Security in the Asian region as a whole is an exceedingly complex issue, and yet it still must be planned. I would be glad if the establishment of an exercises center would present an opportunity to do so.

[SEKAI] What you just mentioned is very interesting, and I also almost fully concur. One other thing concerning revision this year is the one point about what to do about handling the PKF referred to as the "freeze on substantive business."

[Ichikawa] I am in favor of lifting the freeze on the peacekeeping forces [PKF]. However, that would be predicated on having to strictly adhere to the five principles when participating in PKO. Although we approved the PKO Bill, at that time a condition was the inclusion of principles in the legislation that are more strict than the average form of the UN PKO activities. This is a reference to the five principles. As long as that is included, the law itself is tied to government judgment, but with respect to this civilian-control safety mechanism, the understanding reflected in national opinion is not necessarily sufficient, and since there is also a backlash from Asian nations, there ended up being a proposal to freeze PKF, which is "substantive business."

In that way, the PKO Cooperation Law was passed, and looking back over the past three years when the SDPJ, which had been opposing cooperation inside the Diet, approved the five-principles type of PKO, making a major change of direction in the sense that SDF is constitutional. Regardless of whether SDPJ supporters have changed to that extent, I think that there has been a good deal of expansion in the understanding of PKO among the people. However, this is where I think people have a misconception. Even if Japan were to remove the freeze on PKF activities, it would still not mean it would be capable of the same activities as the PKF of other countries. That is to say, because the principle of the use of weapons for "self-defense" hinges on the PKO Cooperation Law as a whole, even if the PKF freeze is removed, we would still not be able to engage in so-called escort activities the way other nations do. It would still not be possible to go to protect the units of other countries because they seem about to be attacked. That is the way the structure of the law is.

Then one hears the argument that just removing the PKO freeze would not even be enough. It is from that standpoint that arguments insisting on revision of the five principles themselves can be heard from the LDP or among commentators. We have continuously been saying now that even though it may be inadequate, it cannot easily be changed because it is vital to first obtain sufficient understanding of the people on the five principle type of PKO. This is so even inside the Shinshinto.

At that point, Secretary General Ghali's plan appeared and enlivened the PKO debate, but recently even

Secretary General Ghali has come to understand its unreasonableness, and it was withdrawn. After all, the origin of PKO is in the fact that when there is a cease fire and agreement between two nations, one goes in from a neutral standpoint. And it seems that there has been a perception that we must return to this point, which I think is a good thing.

However, it is still true that the opinion exists among the opposition and ruling parties that the current PKF limitations should be lifted and even that merely lifting them would not do any good, and, consequently, that the five principles should be revised. However, I stand firmly against being too hasty in revising the five principles. Prior to that, we should try to get the correct understanding of the people. I think that if there is an attempt to change the five principles, it should be debated with the knowledge that it will become a constitutional issue.

We put such efforts into creating the PKO Law. It is premature to think that the agreement of the nation and the people of Asia was easily obtained. With revision three years later and removal of the PKF freeze, I do not think that there should be an easy debate on revision of the five principles by taking advantage of the turmoil of this debate. Although there are those who say fine sounding things, such as that politicians should lead the opinion of the people, that is also accompanied by hazards. Another problem is that because the SDPJ has not delved into this debate, it is questionable as to whether they are even capable of arguing it. This is something fraught with peril.

[SEKAI] Then you should be certain to frequently initiate debate in this area....

[Ichikawa] Whenever I initiate it I get angry.

[SEKAI] What is your opinion concerning the Golan PKO?

[Ichikawa] Golan is a bit of a red flag with me. Without having sufficient background knowledge, I think I would like to look into it sensibly. Until now events in the Golan Heights have been quite complex, and I have some apprehensions about whether the five principles could really be complied with or not. My view is that it would be better not to try to stretch too far out of excessive concern about becoming a permanent Security Council member. In addition, I am dissatisfied that there is too much guidance by the Foreign Ministry. I want them to let politicians make more judgements. The Foreign Ministry paves the way, and by the time it gets to the politicians, a good feeling has already been provided to the UN. Then the politicians, since the way has been prepared, dispatch an inquiry commission, and that is it. This is sense one gets of the way things are happening now.

A civilian policeman died in Cambodia. As one of those who created the law, I feel a profound responsibility. At that time, the Diet become absorbed in debate concerning the fact that civilians would be safe; if the SDF goes it would be dangerous; is it right to dispatch the SDF? But I felt a deep sense of self-examination about the fact that sufficient debate had not taken place concerning sending civilians. I feel apprehensive that, since Cambodia, judgment on sending out the PKO may have become too relaxed.

Editorial on 'Assertive' Defense White Paper

OW0707140795 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Jul 95 Morning Edition p 3

[Editorial: "Defense White Paper Becoming Assertive"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The domestic environment surrounding the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] has changed completely over the past year.

The most drastic change was the inauguration a year ago of a coalition government led by Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]. For many years, the party insisted "the SDF is unconstitutional"; however, after Murayama became the prime minister, he made a 180-degree turn and called it "constitutional."

It is also noteworthy that the SDF gained the public trust through its manpower support for the victims of the Hanshin earthquake and participation in UN peacekeeping efforts.

Nearly all political parties, including the SDPJ, have now "recognized" the legitimacy of the SDF. With words such as "trust" and "hope" being bandied about, change is in the wind. But the question has arisen as to how to ensure that the nation is militarily prepared to deal with the new global environment in the post-Cold War era.

The FY95 white paper on the nation's defense and security has captured the "winds of change" in this new age, presenting "self-assertive" ideas in many of its chapters. In fact, the Defense Agency says "We want the white paper to present views that will help arouse public debate about the nation's defense and security."

Previous white papers on the nation's defense were often devoted to uninspiring and "defensive" discussions on pertinent issues, largely because the agency was preoccupied with views offered by the government before the Diet and the public in connection with the SDF, and the fear that it would be attacked by opposition parties. We hope the agency drafts another "assertive" paper next year.

The latest defense white paper devotes one chapter to discussions on specific issues regarding defense policies and other tasks that must be addressed by the nation in the future. This represents a new effort to shed the agency's erstwhile passive attitude on discussions of such issues.

The white paper notes that "It is necessary to study further the needs of Japan's defense capabilities." It also argues that "The international community wants to see Japan holding a greater role in setting up a stable framework for international peace and security."

Having said this, the white paper dwells on the need to "maintain and improve a highly reliable and efficient level of military preparedness," while shrugging off the simplistic view that calls for major reductions in Japan's military capability.

Regarding a proposal to lift the current ban on full participation in UN peacekeeping forces, the white paper encourages discussions on the issue, saying the nation should "fully debate the matter while paying attention to lessons from the past and opinions representing various sectors of society."

The paper has good reason to present that line of argument. Each political party should squarely study the thrust of the paper and promote debate on the issue.

Undoubtedly, the SDF has gained more trust from the public, particularly since its rescue missions after the Hanshin earthquake and the sarin attack on the Tokyo subway system.

In an unusual move, the white paper devotes one chapter to discussions on the SDF's "disaster relief missions."

However, this is in sharp contrast to an eight-line boxed article in the white paper that takes up the alleged involvement by several SDF personnel in a series of incidents linked to the Aum Shinrikyo cult.

About 10 retired and active SDF members have been arrested by police or reprimanded in connection with their suspected involvement in these incidents. It is a matter of grave concern that some SDF personnel allegedly played a part in the Aum-related cases reportedly aimed to overthrow the government. This is outrageous because the SDF is supposed to be an organization for ensuring the peace of the nation and safety of the people. Does the agency have a sense of crisis concerning the severity of the matter?

The Defense Agency and the SDF will lose public trust developed over recent years if white papers on defense and security focus only on themes that favor themselves.

Results of YOMIURI Constitution Poll Reported

952A0559A Tokyo THIS IS YOMIURI in Japanese 1 Jun 95 pp 146-151

[Report by Kunimi Nakano, chief of survey research headquarters, Yomiuri Shimbunsha: "Yomiuri Poll: The Constitution and Generational Awareness; Little Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an opinion poll on the Constitution conducted by Yomiuri Shimbunsha in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the majority of the respondents favored constitutional reform. This signifies the end of the postwar sentiment that had clouded constitutional debates.

There used to exist an inseparable relationship between constitutional debates and the sentiment of "that abominable Pacific War."

Constitutional debates in the past had been dominated by the people who considered such concepts as "war" and "peace" in light of their own actual war experiences. These debates tended to be based on such sentiments as, "we must safeguard our peace constitution, because we do not want war any more."

However, as the number of people of the postwar generation has increased, there seems to have been a shift toward "realistic constitutional debates" that are free of vestiges of the past and focused on reality instead, making it possible to evaluate the rolls of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] judiciously, as well. Constitutional debates that are detached from the sentiment of "that abominable Pacific War" seem at last to have become possible.

In this article, I would like to examine generational differences in constitutional debates.

Differences in Opinions by Generation

As can be gleaned from the tables produced at the end of this article, the percentage of the respondents in favor of constitutional revision has reached 50.4 percent, a majority. By generation, 59 percent of those in their 20's were in favor of constitutional revision, 56 percent in their 30's, and 57 percent in their 40's. On the other hand, the percentage was smaller for the advanced-age groups: 46 percent of those in their 50's were in favor of constitutional revision, 42 percent in their 60's, and 37 percent in their 70's and older.

Completely opposite results to the above were obtained from those who were against constitutional revision. By generation, 28 percent of those in their 20's were against constitutional revision, 29 percent in their 30's, and 27 percent in their 40's. On the other hand, the percentage increased for the advanced age groups: 31 percent of those in their 50's were against constitutional revision, 38 percent in their 60's, and 36 percent in their 70's and older.

In sum, the older the respondents, the more were in favor of safeguarding the constitution, and thus were against constitutional revision. On the other hand, the younger the respondents, the less allergic they were to reform, and thus they were less likely to oppose constitutional revision.

It is clear, therefore, that opinions as to constitutional revision are completely different among different generational groups. Let me cite a concrete example.

An Inter-Generational War Within the Research Committee on Constitutional Issues

Yomiuri Shimbunsha created a first committee for research on constitutional issues, which existed for one year since the beginning of 1992. We requested 12 outside experts to study the constitution, mainly its relationship to security and international cooperation. However, generational differences among these 12 experts colored their opinions, and arguments within the committee became like "a war among generations."

"Romanticists" among those who were born before World War II stressed their war experiences. They tend to be "deeply emotional," saying that they were finally able to get an ideal constitution based on "democracy, human rights, and peace" in exchange for the price paid for the Pacific War, sacrificing the precious lives of 3 million compatriots.

"Realists" among the same prewar contemporaries thought it "regrettable" that along with the humiliating defeat in the war, the promulgation of the constitution was carried out by GHQ [general headquarters] under the leadership of General MacArthur. They asserted, therefore, that it would be a matter of course to revise the Constitution whenever it is necessary to do so.

On the other hand, for the people in the "postwar generation," to whom the existence of the constitution is not something to be marveled at, it was relatively easy to make objective judgment about to good or bad.

The committee spent several hundred hours on discussions. Arguments among the "romanticists," "realists," and the people in the "postwar generation" can be summarized as follows: The "romanticists" believe that unless we safeguard our constitutional ideals, we will not be able to attain peace. The "realists" believe that if we rely on others, we will not be able to attain peace. The people in the "postwar generation" argue that we should keep good parts of the constitution and correct bad ones.

Changes in Public Opinion on Our Constitution Over Time

There are several points about the changes in public opinion on the constitution over the past fifty years.

According to an opinion poll conducted by Mainichi Shimbun in May 1946, immediately after enactment of the constitution, the people welcomed it, and 80 percent of the respondents did not think it necessary to change the clause on renunciation of war. This is because the people felt strongly that they had had enough of war, and also probably because they were not informed of the fact that the constitution had been pressed upon Japan by the United States.

As Japan regained its independence following the end of the U.S. occupation, the view of the constitution gradually changed, and there emerged a strong opinion that Japan should have a constitution drafted by the Japanese for a new Japan. According to an opinion poll conducted by Yomiuri Shimbunsha right before the conclusion of the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951, 47 percent of the respondents were in favor of constitutional reform, exceeding greatly the 17 percent of the respondents who were against such reform.

In a poll taken in the year following the conclusion of the treaty, 57 percent of the respondents were in favor of retaining military forces, compared to 24 percent who were against it. Subsequently, however, public opinion in favor of constitutional revision subsided, and its resurgence occurred only after the Gulf War, which started when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Japan contributed more than $10 billion to this war, but it was not appreciated by the international community. This led to an enactment of the PKO [Peacekeeping Operations] Cooperation Act, and Japan began to contribute not only money but also cooperation in human resources, such as dispatching SDF troops to Cambodia. Various opinion polls in 1993 showed more in favor of constitutional revision, and according to the poll conducted by Yomiuri Shimbunsha, more than 50 percent of the respondents were in favor of such revision.

A Scholar of Constitutions in a Rage

On the other hand, 80 percent of constitutional scholars are defenders of the constitution, and this is different from the trend of public opinions. However, there also exists a war of generations among these scholars. In short, those scholars who experienced the war and are in favor of the constitution boast that "we are the orthodox defenders of the constitution, and as our arguments for the constitution are based on our war experiences, they are as strong as steel." Therefore, they tend to despise the arguments in favor of the constitution advanced by those who did not experience the war. They say: "As they have no ideas of that painful and trying experience of losing one's family and friends, their arguments for the constitution are simply imaginary."

This seems far removed from academic arguments, but it makes it easy to understand the sentiment of what the following old pro-constitution scholar has to say:

To those hard-boiled defenders of the constitution who "do not allow anyone to change a single word in the constitution," Professor Norio Noda of Kyoto University says: "If you feel really attached to the constitution and want to keep protecting it now and in the future, you must keep it in good shape, as you would repair and maintain your house to prevent leakage in order to keep living in it" (from an interview regarding the constitution reported in the May issue of this magazine).

No More Emotional Arguments

Arguments by the defenders of the constitution—that is, to protect the constitution is to protect peace, and therefore, any change in wording of the constitution should not be allowed—are not unrelated to the memory of "that abominable Pacific War." As the war among generations is over, debates over the constitution should now begin to focus on facts in an objective, not emotional, manner.

Are You in Favor of Revising the Constitution?

	1981	1986	1991	1993	1994	1995
In favor	27.8	22.6	33.3	50.4	44.2	50.4
Not in favor	43.9	56.6	51.1	33.0	40.0	30.9
Don't know, or no answer	28.3	20.8	15.5	16.6	15.8	18.7

Revisionist Reasons for Revising the Constitution

(multiple answers allowed; "other" and "no response" excluded; percent)

Difficulty in responding to requests for international contributions	56.9
Confusion arising from interpretations and applications	28.8
Pressed upon Japan by the United States	22.3
Too much emphasis on rights	22.2
The right for self-defense should be stipulated and the Self-Defense Forces should be clearly mentioned in the text	21.0

Nonrevisionist Reasons Against Revising the Constitution

(multiple answers allowed; "other" and "no response" excluded; percent)

Well understood by the citizens already	50.4
A peace constitution that Japan can be proud of in the world	39.4
To prevent Japan from becoming a military superpower	29.8
Guaranty of basic human rights and democracy	25.6
Amenable to interpretation and application along with the changes of the times	22.1

Revisionists by Generation Over Time

(An * indicates the generation group that is more in favor of constitutional revision than the average of the total respondents; "don't know" and "no answer" excluded; percent)

	1981	1986	1991	1993	1994	1995
Total	27.8	22.6	33.3	50.4	44.2	50.4
Twenties	27.6	* 27.6	33.3	* 52.5	* 48.1	* 58.7
Thirties	* 28.9	* 22.8	* 38.2	* 56.2	* 55.6	* 55.9
Forties	27.5	22.0	* 37.1	* 51.1	* 45.1	* 56.9
Fifties	* 30.1	22.2	28.3	49.4	41.9	46.4
Sixties	24.1	19.8	32.4	46.9	36.2	42.3
Seventies or older	25.0	19.9	24.7	42.2	32.2	37.4

Non-Revisionists by Generation Over Time

(An * indicates the generation group that is more against constitutional revision than the average of the total respondents;"don't know" and "no answer" excluded; percent)

	1981	1986	1991	1993	1994	1995
Total	43.9	56.6	51.1	33.0	40.0	30.9
Twenties	* 47.2	52.2	* 51.6	27.5	38.6	27.5
Thirties	* 44.0	56.2	45.3	29.4	32.4	28.8
Forties	* 44.5	56.6	* 53.0	* 35.7	39.4	27.3
Fifties	42.3	* 59.4	* 54.6	* 34.0	39.5	30.9
Sixties	38.7	* 57.9	49.7	* 33.7	* 48.0	* 37.5
Seventies or older	* 47.4	55.5	* 53.2	* 38.2	* 45.9	* 35.8

Are you in favor of revising the constitution?

(DK/NA stands for "don't know" and "no answer"; percent)

	For revision	Against revision	Others, DK/NA
Grand total	50.4	30.9	18.7
By gender			
Male	54.7	31,9	13.4
Female	46.8	30.1	223.1
By age group			
(DK/NA stands for "don't know" and "no answer"; percent)			
Twenties	58.7	27.5	13.8
Thirties	55.9	28.8	15.4
Forties	56.9	27.3	15.8
Fifties	46.4	30.9	22.7
Sixties	42.3	37.5	20.1
Seventies and older	37.4	35.8	26.8
By education			

(DK/NA stands for "don't know" and "no answer"; percent)

Elementary and middle school	39.7	34.4	25.9
High school	51.1	29.6	19.3
College	58.4	31.1	10.5
DK/NA	45.0	20.0	35.0
By employment			
Self-employed	50.8	32.8	16.4
Wage earners	52.9	30.6	16.5
Unemployed	47.4	30.5	22.1
By profession			
Agriculture, forestry, fishery	44.1	31.4	24.5
Commerce, manufacturing, service	55.0	32.3	12.7
Freelance	46.2	42.3	11.5
Managers and professionals	48.0	37.4	14.6
Clerical and engineering	59.3	25.5	15.2
Labor and service	47.9	33.5	18.6
Housewives	50.7	26.6	22.7
Women at home other than housewives	37.2	29.5	33.3
Students	59.0	33.3	7.7
Others and unemployed	40.3	40.9	18.8
Annual income			
Less than Y2 million	42.1	38.3	19.5
Y2 million to Y4 million	55.6	28.3	16.1
Y4 million to Y6 million	53.1	29.4	17.5
Y6 million to Y8 million	52.3	29.7	18.0
Y8 million to Y10 million	48.2	38.7	13.1
More than Y10 million	56.8	32.2	11.0
DK/NA	43.2	29.0	27.8
Support the Cabinet?			
Yes	46.0	38.7	15.3
No	58.5	28.3	13.1
Others	49.3	26.0	24.7
DK/NA	35.1	16.7	48.1
Party affiliation			
Liberal Democratic Party	50.0	32.1	17.9
New Frontier Party	54.6	28.6	16.8
Social Democratic Party of Japan	39.8	46.6	13.6
Sakigake	44.1	47.1	8.8
Japan Communist Party	33.3	62.5	4.2
Liberal League	72.7	27.3	0.0
Other parties	54.5	31.8	13.6
Nonpartisan	52.3	27.0	20.7
DK/NA	38.7	16.1	45.2

Ozawa Interviewed on Recent, Pending Elections

952B0182A Tokyo USHIO in Japanese Jun 95 pp 130-141

[Interview with Ichiro Ozawa by Eiji Oshita; place and date not given; first paragraph is USHIO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eiji Oshita was born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1944. He graduated from Hiroshima University, having majored in literature. In 1969 he started working as a reporter for a weekly magazine. In 1981, his first book, *The Story of Dentsu* was published. He is a prolific writer, having written more than 10 serialized books. Among them are *The Story of Mitsukoshi — the Thirteen Judes*, *Misora Hibari and Her Times*, *Showa and Kenji Osano*, and *A Profile of Ichiro Ozawa*.

Iwate Gubernatorial Election

[Oshita] I would like to ask you about the gubernatorial election in Iwate Prefecture, which is your home base. The candidate backed by the NFP [New Frontier Party], Masuda, won there. I would like you to tell us that story, starting with when you decided to support him.

[Ozawa] Actually, I did not know him in the beginning. They are making it look like I knew him before the election, but I didn't. I had never even met him.

Last fall, a former incarnation of the NFP, namely, the Shinto Kyogikai [New Party Council], was looking for a candidate from within the prefecture, but we could not find one. Then, someone suggested talking to Masuda, who was then with the Ministry of Construction. According to what I heard, his answer was simply: "I will leave everything to you." It certainly would have been easier for him to stay where he was, to pursue his career as a bureaucrat. I have heard he has a good reputation at the ministry. But he did not waste any words, he simply decided to run. When I heard that, I knew he could make it as a politician. So there was no reason for me to interview him.

[Oshita] When you did meet him, what was your impression?

[Ozawa] I thought he was a good man, just as everyone had been saying.

[Oshita] Did you think you would win the election easily if you backed him?

[Ozawa] No, I didn't, but with such a good candidate, I didn't see any reason why we should lose.

[Oshita] Not to mention the fact that Iwate Prefecture is your home base, and you have tremendous support there.

[Ozawa] That was certainly a factor. Also, remember that Hiroshi Sasaki, the candidate backed by the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party], is 68, while Masuda is 43.

It is a mistake to run for office with the idea that you are performing your last public service. That is all right when the nation is running smoothly. But at a time like now, when we do not know what is going to happen to Japan, we do not need someone who is looking for a retirement job. There is no doubt in my mind that Sasaki is a fine man, but that has nothing to do with it. He is not risking anything, and we need someone who is willing to take risks. The problem is that some of our senior citizens vote for LDP candidates, and they do so blindly. Those are votes we would like to have.

[Oshita] So the rest was just a matter of how big a margin you would end up with, wasn't it?

[Ozawa] Yes, and that is determined by the number of people the candidate meets. The more people you meet, the more votes you get. There's no mistake about this. Anyway, I told Masuda: "Don't even take time to eat lunch. Meet as many people as you possibly can."

[Oshita] I heard that your margin of victory, 90,661 votes, was the biggest ever in the history of Iwate Prefecture. Was it bigger than you expected?

[Ozawa] Yes. The media reported that it was extraordinary. I was in Iwate for three days. That is what was really extraordinary, that I was there only three days. Normally, to win in a race like that one, we would have needed to be there fighting for months, covering every inch of the prefecture. I nagged my secretaries. I told them: "I want a three-digit margin, in other words, 100,000 votes." They really worked hard. If we had had more time, the margin would have been wider. If we would gotten started six months sooner, it would have been a landslide.

[Oshita] You even said that you were staking your political career on this election.

[Ozawa] I would have resigned as secretary-general if Masuda had lost. You cannot stay in that job if you lose in your home territory.

[Oshita] So you were really prepared to resign if he lost?

[Ozawa] Really. If you do not take responsibility when you lose, nobody's going to listen to you anyway. Besides, I knew that I had no future if I couldn't win that election. In some ways, I am a fatalist. I figured that if we could not win that election, then the gods were telling me to step aside. That is what I kept telling myself. If we won, then they were telling me that I was still needed. That is probably why I tend to speak forthrightly. It is because once I have made up my mind, I do not change it.

[Oshita] You personally went to Iwate Prefecture to give your support during that election, didn't you.

[Ozawa] Yes. I received a lot of criticism for "going out on sales calls," but I didn't do it for fun. The organization asked me to, so I did it. You need to go out on the street and make speeches, too. But there are others who could do that just as well as I could. Besides, an election is something you win by wearing out shoe leather. You cannot count on someone else's doing the show for you. You need to show everyone that you are serious by pounding the pavement. That is what it's all about.

The Gubernatorial Election in Mie Prefecture

[Oshita] NFP Diet Representative Masayasu Kitagawa ran in the Mie gubernatorial election. When you went to Mie, what was your impression?

[Ozawa] I thought we had it sewed up. The reason is that the people I visited were in the enemy camp or neutral. When you visit those people, you get a good idea of the whole picture. So I am not boasting when I say that.

For instance, the Aomori gubernatorial election was held in February. At that time, I went around visiting supporters of the incumbent governor and those who are duty-bound, for one reason or another, to support him. At first, they told me: "The incumbent, (Masaya) Kitamura is a good governor. Your (Morio) Kitamura, the one who used to be an NFP Diet representative, does not stand a chance against him." But when I listened to what they had to say, I realized that they really meant "it is going to be a free-for-all; we have no idea how it is going to turn out." Of course, they were not saying what they really thought. But I was able to tell what they meant by reading between the lines. They meant that they knew their work was cut out for them. They meant that Kimura, who didn't stand a chance, was gaining on Kitamura. When that happened, I knew that Kimura was sure to win, because the candidate who's gaining is stronger than the one who's being chased. I knew that in this type of election, Kimura would win. I honestly wasn't bluffing when I announced that he was going to win. And he did.

[Oshita] What about Mie, then, proceeding along those same lines?

[Ozawa] In Mie there was a great deal of resentment against the prefectural administration that had been in control for the past 22 years. The people I saw were in the opposing camp or middle-of-the-roaders so, of course, they didn't say anything. But again, reading between the lines, I suddenly saw what was going on. I was sure that we would win. It was a close race, and Kitagawa was behind, but I told him: "Don't worry. You are going to win. If you lose, it means that you and your staff didn't do your jobs." And, just as I had predicted, he won.

[Oshita] On the other hand, you lost in Akita. How about that one? Former NFP Diet Representative Takao Sato wasn't backed by the NFP, was he?

[Ozawa] Sato probably thought he would do better running as an independent. But when you decide to do that, you should never ask your colleagues for help. You have to campaign alone. What happened was that he had trouble somewhere along the way, and asked everyone to go and help him out. He should have run as an NFP candidate in the first place. If he had done that, I think he would have won.

[Oshita] Didn't you advise him to do that?

[Ozawa] It was his choice to make. What could I have done? Sato thought he'd get wider support running as an independent. I was skeptical right from the start. Akita is next door to my home prefecture, so a lot of information was available to me. Anyway, looking at the results, I think he would have won with NFP backing.

[Oshita] The strategies are different for independents and candidates with party backing, aren't they?

[Ozawa] Yes, plus the impact you have on the voters is different. With party backing, they know where you stand politically. They know what you believe in. You have to make that clear.

[Oshita] That was a shame. If you had won in Akita, that would have been three victories.

[Ozawa] But Sato declined NFP support. Strictly speaking, we won two out of two. If you count Aomori, we won three elections.

The NFP and the Tokyo Gubernatorial Election

[Oshita] Now I would like to discuss the Tokyo gubernatorial election. Why didn't you field a candidate in that election?

[Ozawa] Regardless of what has been reported about me, I believe that we should have fielded a candidate in that election. I do not know if I would have felt the same way about an election below the prefectural level, but I think political parties should select gubernatorial candidates. But NFP representatives elected from Tokyo, and their affiliates insisted that there was no one suitable, so there was nothing I could do.

The first rule of thumb for gubernatorial elections is that locals have to run them. They have to do the work that is needed in their own territory. Even some NFP members are complaining about our not running anyone in the Tokyo election. But the only ones who have a right to criticize Tokyo are our members elected from Aomori, Mie, and Iwate, who did field candidates. How can the others complain about Tokyo when they didn't field candidates in their own prefectures? Who are they kidding? I have a right to complain, since I supported someone in Iwate. Anyway, the battle begins on the home turf. If you can win there, then you can win nationally. Finding fault with others, when you haven't done what you are supposed to do, is the height of cowardice. We have a lot of members elected from Tokyo. Their ultimate decision was not to back anyone and to vote independently. It was their choice, so we have to live with it.

[Oshita] I heard that the NFP was considering Kunio Hatoyama as a candidate in the Tokyo election.

[Ozawa] I felt that if Hatoyama decided to run, we could manage to rally our forces around him. I also asked him to run.

[Oshita] You spoke to him personally and urged him to run?

[Ozawa] I met with him, and tried to convince him. I told him: "Everybody's behind you, so please decide quickly." But no matter how enthusiastic others are, it is the potential candidate who must make the decision. Election campaigns gain momentum when the candidate becomes the focus, and his enthusiasm and energy are communicated to others. But it is impossible to fight for a candidate who has cold feet.

[Oshita] He had cold feet?

[Ozawa] I think Hatoyama had his heart set on remaining a Diet representative. But given the circumstances, I believe that he was torn and was having trouble making a decision. But when you waver, you cannot win an election. A candidate needs drive, determination, and enthusiasm.

[Oshita] He just didn't have enough enthusiasm.

[Ozawa] That's right.

[Oshita] Didn't you have anyone besides Hatoyama who would have been a good candidate?

[Ozawa] Hatoyama was probably the only one who the entire party would have supported.

[Oshita] The media reported that the NFP declined to field a candidate because it didn't want to offend the Komei people.

[Ozawa] That's not true. If Hatoyama had agreed to run, we would have backed him all the way, no matter what reaction we'd gotten from the Komeito.

[Oshita] The Komeito cooperates with the NFP, at least on national issues. Weren't you concerned about avoiding dissension?

[Ozawa] Not at all. No one seems to understand us on that subject, including our own party members. My position is that we should go out there and fight. If we end up making enemies of the Komeito people in Tokyo, then so be it. We are the NFP, so there's no reason for us to hold back. Even (Yuichi) Ichikawa (former secretary-general of the Komeito) told me: "I am a member of the NFP. I will abide by whatever the party decides."

I believe that the Komeito organization should be dissolved as quickly as possible, and that it should merge with the NFP. If they insist on keeping the name, all of the Diet members from the former Komeito will lose when they come up for reelection. The voters will not be able to forget the Komeito, the political party. The name will become an albatross around the necks of its members. They will never get more than 15 percent of the votes under the medium-sized electoral district system. They won't get votes from anywhere else.

[Oshita] Then should the Komei's regional Diet member organizations be disbanded as well?

[Ozawa] Of course. They should definitely merge with the NFP, and soon. When they have done that, they won't have to listen to comments about separation of church and state.

[Oshita] Did you make this suggestion to Ichikawa?

[Ozawa] I make it to everyone. I have made it at press conferences, too. NFP members haven't been listening to my press conferences. I do not defer to the Komeito. I do not defer to them, but I have nothing against them. What I mean is that I bear no prejudice toward them. Since we are working together, we have to help each other, right? The very people who complain about them are the ones who come begging for Sokagakkai votes at election time. My feeling is that "if you are going to complain, don't come asking for votes." You have a right to complain only if you come right out and say that you do not want their votes. That is how a politician is supposed to behave.

[Oshita] So they criticize the Komeito behind their backs, but then say they want the Sokagakkai vote. Is that right?

[Ozawa] That kind of behavior is unforgivable. Politicians have no excuse for doing such a thing, nor does anyone else. If you are going to criticize the Komeito for being a religious party, then don't count on their votes. Everybody comes to me saying "could you please ask the Sokagakkai ... " when the pressure is on.

[Oshita] Since we are on the subject, I noticed an article in a monthly magazine in which Ichikawa was quoted as having said something rather disturbing: "If the NFP turns against us, I have my own plans."

[Ozawa] He does get upset sometimes. And I think he meant what he said. When he hears "you people stay in the background. Just give us your votes," he gets angry. I can understand how he feels, and he has a right to feel that way. But the Sokagakkai should disband the Komeito as soon as possible. I can say this because I have never received Sokagakkai support, not even once, during any of my elections.

[Oshita] That is news to me.

[Ozawa] I usually don't mention it, because I don't want to shock everyone. But I know all the executives of the former Komeito. Diet members don't know this, nor does the general public, but the Komeito has always supported Shiina, who runs from the same electoral district as I do. I have never received election support from the Sokagakkai. As far as my personal election campaigns are concerned, the Sokagakkai has been a hindrance. After Shiina switched to the Upper House, the Sokagakkai started backing me. Of course, in the gubernatorial election, we worked together. And this is not what our cooperation is about. We are working together for the benefit of our nation.

[Oshita] At a conference held to discuss the qualifications those seeking to become prime minister should have, Chimpei Nozue, an NFP Upper House member, allegedly made the following remark: "We lost the Tokyo and Osaka gubernatorial elections. In voting, the people of these two prefectures were demonstrating their disapproval of Ozawa. This is a no-confidence vote against Ozawa, so he should resign from his position as secretary-general." What are your thoughts on this?

[Ozawa] Nothing in particular. But if that is what he thinks, why didn't he run in Tokyo? Why didn't the Diet members elected from Tokyo choose someone from among them? Before you criticize other people, you should make sure that you are doing what you are supposed to do. This is a media report, so I have no idea how true it is. But whatever the case, I believe that you have to have fulfilled your responsibilities to earn the right to attack others. And I am not wedded to the secretary-general position. If someone else wants it, and is prepared to do the work, then I am willing to yield. But remember, I was chosen for this position in an official election. The position is the hub of activity in every party. Problems always arise when election activities are being organized. Normally, the party head would act as secretary-general. But if we do it that way, all the responsibility falls on his shoulders. That is why we decided to hold an official election for this office. If we had not done that, we would have a hard time obtaining agreement on candidates. If election matters were the responsibility of the party head, party members would inevitably ask me: "What authority do you have to do this? I elected the party head, but I didn't elect you." Then the party head is forced to do everything. The situation is different with a party that has an established order and traditions. But in our case, we could not have run the election properly without officially electing a secretary-general. We do not have a recall provision, but if they don't want me to do this job, they can ask for a recall, and hold another election. That is what democracy is about. Politicians who have elected me, but insist on criticizing me behind my back, are guilty of inexcusable behavior.

Predicting the Next Election

[Oshita] Now I would like to ask you about the next general election. One of the newspapers ran a rather pessimistic article. It predicts that no matter what the voting patterns are, the LDP and its sympathizers will win around 350 seats, while the NFP will be able to capture only about 100 seats.

[Ozawa] And what does that mean? What an imbecilic prediction! A leading newspaper should be ashamed of itself for printing such trash. They do not know the first thing about elections.

Under the new electoral system, more than 60 percent of the seats will be contested in major urban areas, such as Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, and Aichi. This means two-thirds of all the seats. If we all cooperate, there is no way we can lose to the LDP. We will trample them. We will win two-thirds of that 60 percent. Politicians who are counting on publicity or for the wind to blow the right way w ill not win. But someone who runs his campaign right, who works steadily day in and day out, cannot lose. I am sure of that. Other, outlying areas are another problem, though. How are we going to win in those areas, which represent one-third of the total? That's where the problem is. If we do not do something, the LDP is going to win two-thirds of those seats.

[Oshita] So that's five-ninths.

[Ozawa] If we prevail in the outlying regions, we will definitely win. Even if we only win half those seats, we still will get eleven-eighteenths. In other words, if we fight an equal battle against the LDP, we will win. We will win a stable majority.

[Oshita] You are pretty confident, aren't you?

[Ozawa] Yes, I am. But we cannot have our candidates neglecting their campaign activities, and then saying: "It wasn't in the cards," or "I didn't get enough backing." That is not what elections are about. The Japanese place so much emphasis on emotions. Human relationships are important. The LDP lost the Tokyo gubernatorial election because the voters demonstrated their resentment toward and lack of confidence in politicians. Of course they did. The LDP does nothing. I have said, at press conferences, that "if politicians fulfill their responsibilities, the public will understand."

[Oshita] I see.

[Ozawa] The voters think that neither the government nor the Diet can do anything, regardless of what happens. That is why they have no confidence in either institution. To get the voters to understand your ideas and your sense of mission, the only thing to do is to convince each one of them. Two years have passed since the last general election. Given that much time, you can visit every home in a small electoral district. If you do not do that, but simply hope that the wind will blow your way, it won't work. If every member of a party takes politics seriously, the party's public support is bound to rise. But they do not, so it does not. And since in many outlying districts there simply are no candidates, public support is not going to increase.

[Oshita] What do you have to do to win there?

[Ozawa] Look for a promising candidate, and back him. That is all you can do.

[Oshita] Didn't you do that?

[Ozawa] Yes, we did. But there were places where we found candidates, and places where we didn't. There's a big difference, a huge discrepancy. We find promising candidates in some areas, and absolutely none in some others. It is a tough job.

[Oshita] In the general election, you will run every candidate you deem appropriate, won't you?

[Ozawa] Of course.

[Oshita] That is an optimistic observation.

[Ozawa] My judgement is based on the whole picture. We are definitely not going to lose this battle. Everybody is all flustered though, thinking we are going to lose.

[Oshita] Aren't there a lot of people within the NFP who are worried?

[Ozawa] I have explained the situation to them, but they don't understand. From 27-29 March, I met with the Diet representatives' secretaries and explained to them about the election, including the new system. I told them that we are going to win, and asked them to do their parts. You get more results going from house to house than you do giving interviews to the press. The young candidates have to make their presence known by covering as much territory as possible. When people see them doing that, they give them credit for their efforts. But politicians do not do that, and that is the problem. They don't work hard, they just wait for the wind to blow. The wind is not going to blow. The Japan New Party miracle in 1993 happened because that was a turning point in postwar history. Nothing like that is going to happen this time.

I am always going against the wind. I have never followed the wind. During the Iwate gubernatorial election, people who went there to give support to LDP candidates, as well as the media, were all bad-mouthing me. But if you work hard and are serious, you will win. The voters will understand you. That is the most important thing. Today's politicians have not grasped that fundamental issue.

Another Political Reorganization?

[Oshita] What are your thoughts about a federation of conservatives, a subject that has been bandied about lately?

[Ozawa] This means different things to different people. For instance, some people use the term to refer to a resurrection of the former Takeshita faction. That is not going to happen. There wouldn't be any point in it. There are people in the LDP who are thinking fairly seriously about such a federation, because they are unhappy with the LDP-SDPJ government, with a government that does nothing. If they come to me, and tell me that this government was a mistake, and ask me to help them in this time of difficulty, I will be happy to cooperate with them. In return, though, I would ask them to choose a leader, someone who would be right for the job. If they want to work for administrative or economic reforms, then I will cooperate, even if I am the only one who is willing. I do not want a cabinet post. If, as secretary-general, I decide to cooperate in every way I can, those who agree will follow me. I cannot do anything about those who do not agree. I will not demand a cabinet post. I would not do anything of the sort. But I will insist that they choose a leader with foresight.

[Oshita] You are not talking about splitting the NFP and joining up with the LDP, though, are you?

[Ozawa] That is not going to happen.

[Oshita] Then there is no chance of your rejoining the LDP?

[Ozawa] Absolutely none. That would be meaningless, since my goal is to establish a two-party system. The LDP is going to split again. I cannot even say that the same thing won't happen to the NFP, if there is another political reorganization based on policy.

[Oshita] So you are not ruling out that possibility.

[Ozawa] No. And there may be people in the NFP who have different ideas. I don't think it will split in half, though, like the LDP did.

[Oshita] One hears that it is hard to tell the difference between the ruling coalition and the opposition—what they disagree about, for instance. What are your thoughts on that?

[Ozawa] I think that the differences are clear. The status quo versus reform. But it is hard for the voters to tell. The NFP hasn't explained its political stance clearly enough. There are still vestiges of the 1955-order mindset, and that is why the differences are not clear.

[Oshita] Do politicians have reservations about making their positions clear?

[Ozawa] No, that's not it. It's just that their consciousness hasn't changed. They say the words, they advocate reforms, but they do not know how to go about making them. The true awakening has not occurred yet. Their political stances have not crystallized, that is all it is.

[Oshita] They will show their true colors at election time, won't they?

[Ozawa] Yes. Well, if a difficult problem arises, then we will know for certain. But as long as they do not have much to worry about, we will not know. Since the world has been peaceful for so long, they can get away with this kind of politics. They cannot do anything, they do not do anything. But people are not starving here, and our streets are not filled with vagrants. We are still a prosperous nation. But if the political situation continues in this way, when things do collapse, they will collapse in a big way. The game will be over after the first inning. That is why we have to make reforms now, while Japan is still in good shape.

[Oshita] The yen continues to rise, and is the dollar is on the point of breaking the 80-yen mark. Is this problem the result of a failure to implement corrective policies?

[Ozawa] Ultimately, yes. This phenomenon symbolizes Japan's failure to respond to the changing times. The Americans don't care if the dollar decreases in value. But of course it would be better if the dollar did not fall any further. But since Japan is so slow to respond, they are probably ready to tell us: "Do whatever you like, we don't care." This sort of attitude will change once we become a full-fledged member of the international community.

[Oshita] What exactly should we do?

[Ozawa] We have no choice but to get moving with deregulation and administrative reforms, while explaining to the public exactly what we are doing. But nobody wants to do that. Politicians remain lethargic, and other nations grow more distrustful of us. That distrust is reflected in the exchange rate. If we do not do something to correct this situation, we are really going to be in trouble, in so much trouble that we will not be able to recover. That will be the end for Japan. No nation will extend a helping hand to us. You notice how they feel about us now—"that crummy little country spouting its homegrown theories." They're all angry at us, though half of the anger is jealousy. But you can also argue that if the Japanese economy collapses, the whole world will collapse. That makes people optimistic. If Japan's economy is destroyed, the effect on the world economy will be tremendous. But the rest of the world will protect itself by forming a bloc. Japan will be all alone. The Asian nations do not trust Japan. Even China will not suffer much if Japan is ruined.

[Oshita] Just as the politicians must awaken, our citizens must awaken also. Is that right?

[Ozawa] I think that our citizens are gradually figuring out what is going on. But lethargy is painless, you know. When they awaken, and rise up, then we will be in real trouble.

Our citizens understand what is needed, whether they admit it or not, but they do not insist on major reforms. The status quo is easier and thus more attractive, too. Politicians have to persuade them. If they are not willing to do that, then we do not need politicians.

North Korea

Removal of ROK's 'Corrupt' Social System Urged

SK0707052595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0520 GMT 7 Jul 95

["Source of Disaster Must Be Removed" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 7 (KCNA) — MINJU CHOSON in a signed commentary today says if the South Korean people are to avoid disaster such as the collapse of "Sampoong Department Store", they should remove the corrupt and ailing social system, the cause of the accident, first of all, and establish an independent and democratic government.

The accident which rendered nearly 1,500 people dead or wounded, is a man-made disaster which was caused by the anti-popular policy of the authorities and their incompetent, corrupt and ailing social system, like the ultra large-scale accidents which had taken place in South Korea, the news analyst notes, and goes on:

The big disasters such as the collapse of Songsu Bridge, gas explosion in Ahyon-tong and fire on a passenger ship took place in South Korea in the latest two years.

The collapse of "Sampoong Department Store" is an inevitable result of shoddy construction. It was built by those without elementary knowledge about construction in a slipshod way. Not using enough materials. [sentence as received]

Signs of the collapse of the department store had been known a few days before but no measure for them was taken. After the accident, rescuing work is dragging, only a fuss being made. This fully shows the anti-popular nature of the "civilian regime".

KSDP Sends Letter to ROK DP on Festival

SK1107103095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 11 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party (KSDP) today sent a letter to the Democratic Party [DP] of South Korea concerning a successful holding of a Grand National Reunification Festival marking the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation.

Noting that the South Korean authorities, who are turning aside from the nation's desire for reunification, are trying to keep many political parties, organizations and figures of South Korea from participating in the August 15 festival under the unreasonable pretext that it is "a strategy of reunifying the country through communization" and is aimed at "disturbance in South Korea," the letter said:

As for the projected common festival of the nation, it is neither a matter to be taken in view of ideology and party affiliation nor a matter related to any one side of the North and the South.

We consider that nothing is more important and urgent for the politicians in the North and the South than successfully holding the festival and there is no reason that they cannot join each other in the efforts for its successful opening because of their different ideologies and isms.

Declaring that the C.C. [Central Committee], KSDP will do its best to have the grand festival on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the liberation, the letter expressed the hope that the democratic party of South Korea will positively contribute to its successful holding by keeping in step with the broad patriotic, pro-reunification forces in the North, the South and overseas.

Italian News Media Cited on ROK Economy

SK0507225795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA) — News media of Italy commented on the economy of South Korea in the wake of the collapse of "Sampoong Department Store" in Seoul.

The Italian papers LIBERAZIONE, IL SOLE-24 ORE, LA REPUBBLICA and CORRIERE DELLA SERA on June 30 and July 1 and the news agency and radios of Italy on June 29 and 30 and on July 1, reported about the collapse of the department store, saying that the economy of South Korea is an empty one like castles in the air.

The news media attributed the recent accident entirely to the anti-popular policy pursued by the South Korean authorities and the unplanned export-oriented market economy, adding: This was a telling blow at the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who found himself defeated in the recent "local autonomy elections." His rule was shaken to its foundation as a result.

The paper LIBERAZIONE June 30 in a commentator's article for the foreign desk said:

The growth of South Korean economy is a lie and pie in the sky. Efforts are being made to gratify the greed for export regardless of the people's needs and interests and public services.

South Korea is a political dwarf externally. It has neither any power nor a say in world politics. It is number one puppet of the United States.

As a political dwarf with no power, South Korea is making desperate efforts to attain "growth" of the economy in a bid to gain "supremacy" in Asia. Its efforts are foolish.

WPK Friendship Group Returns Home From China

SK0607130195 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Workers Party of Korea [WPK] goodwill visiting group led by Chi Chae-yong, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, returned home today by train. Kim Yang-kon, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, received the group at Pyongyang station.

Post, Communications Delegates Return From China

SK0607133395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A DPRK post and telecommunications delegation led by Post and Telecommunications Minister Kim Hak-sop returned home today by train after visiting China.

(O Hui-tok), vice post and telecommunications minister, and Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, received the delegation at Pyongyang station.

PRC Friendship Delegation Leaves for Home

SK0607134195 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Jilin provincial branch of the China-DPRK Friendship Association led by Ren Junjue, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Jilin Provincial People's Congress of China, left for home today by train.

Seminar on Wartime 'Slavery' in WWII Viewed

SK1007104795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — An international seminar on war-time slavery was held in Tokyo from July 2 to 4 under the sponsorship of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ).

Members of human rights organisations and personnel of legal and academic circles from many countries and Japanese people of various social strata attended the seminar, as did members of a delegation from the DPRK Measure Committee for Demanding Compensation to the "Comfort Women for the Army" and Victims of the Pacific War.

The secretary general of the ICJ gave a keynote lecture. Then followed a report and speeches.

The reporter and speakers elaborated on the essence of the "comfort women" issue, its actual situation and tasks to probe the truth behind it and accused the Japanese Government of its attempts to free itself from state responsibility for it.

They cited concrete materials, laying bare the Japanese imperialists' aggression of Korea, their policy of colonial domination and the illegality and invalidity of the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" fabricated by Japan in 1905 in a bid to occupy Korea. And they refuted the claims of the Japanese Government that "the treaty on the colonial domination of Korea was valid."

They charged that the coercive drafting and labour is, in the final analysis, a war crime, and urged Japan to properly probe the truth behind it, compensate to the victims and punish those responsible for it.

Former "comfort women for the army" and victims of the coercive drafting and labour gave evidences and opinions were exchanged at the seminar. A final statement was adopted there.

Bulletin in Peru Marks Month of Solidarity

SK0607215395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — The Peru-Korea Institute of Culture and Friendship and the Peruvian Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea issued a bulletin in a joint name on June 27 upon the beginning of the month of solidarity with the Korean people.

In an article titled "Great Charter of Unity of Korean Nation", the bulletin said that His Excellency Kim Il-song, regarding national reunification as an urgent matter the solution of which brooks no further delay, published "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" on April 6, 1993.

This programme is a great charter of the unity of the whole nation to realise the reunification of Korea, it added.

Also edited in the bulletin are articles titled "Let Us Open a Favourable Phase of Reunification of Korea This Year" and "The Armistice Agreement Must Be Replaced by a Peace Agreement".

Khabarovsk Bolshevik Party Delegation Leaves

SK0607134095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Khabarovsk Territorial Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks led by Kabakov, first secretary of the Khabarovsk Territorial Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, left for home today by train.

Papers Observe World Population Day

SK1107102695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 11 Jul 95

["For Solution to Population Issue" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 11 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today observe the world population day.

Articles of the papers say that worldwide activities have been conducted for a solution to the population issue, one of urgent tasks facing humankind.

MINJU CHOSON says in a by-lined article:

Today Korea is free from any upheavals by rapid growth or diminution of population, people's aging and urbanization and other problems facing many countries.

It is a brilliant result of the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Kim Il-song worked out an original policy of population embodying the chuche idea, a man-centred idea, and wisely led the efforts for its implementation from the first days of the building of a new country.

Under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il the chuche-based popular policies have been in force and many modern facilities in all parts of the country such as the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital are greatly conducive to the solution to the population issue in Korea.

Activities on 4 Jul Mark Kim's Death Anniversary

Public Security Men Hold Symposium

SK0507120095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1107 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA) — A symposium of public security men was held on July 4 on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The participants paid a silent tribute to the memory of President Kim Il-song with most reverential feelings.

The speakers at the symposium said that right after the country was liberated, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the party and then the public security organ, gave public security officers the most honorable title that they were political defenders of the party and led them to fully discharge their duties and role in each period and at each stage of the developing revolution.

To improve the work of public security in hearty response to the behests of Comrade Kim Il-song is essential for reliably defending by law Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses, the speakers said.

A decisive guarantee for fresh innovations in the work of public security, they said, is to remain loyal to guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with an absolute and unconditional worship for him.

They called upon all the public security men to fully perform their honorable duties to resolutely defend the Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses under the guidance of respected General Kim Chong-il, holding the great Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the eternal leader for all ages.

Present at the symposium were Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Paek Hak-nim, minister of public security, and others.

Educational Sector Holds Seminar

SK0507065995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A seminar of the educational sector was held at Kim Chaek Engineering University on 4 July on the first anniversary of the passing of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Participating in the seminar were Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; Choe Ki-yong, chairman of the Education Committee; functionaries of relevant sectors; and teachers and researchers from colleges and universities in Pyongyang.

The participants observed a moment of silence in a most reverential mood, cherishing the memory of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who devoted his life to the growth and prosperity of the country, the freedom and happiness of the people, and the strengthening and development of socialist education.

Speeches were made at the seminar by Song Chae-song, first deputy minister of higher education under the Education Committee; Pak Kwan-o, president of Kim Il-song University; Choe Hyong-chol, secretary of the party committee of Pyongyang Medical College; Hong Il-chon, dean of the Kim Hyong-chik Teachers College; and Kim Kyong-hwan, president of the Kim Chaek Engineering University. The speeches were entitled "The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the great sun of the nation who built a growing and prospering strong socialist state in this land and gave our people true life and happiness"; "The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a great revolutionary who devoted everything throughout his life to the people"; "The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a benevolent father who brought up all our people in his bosom with the politics of benevolence and an all-embracing politics"; "The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song is the great leader of the revolution who originated chuche education and made immortal achievements in the educational field"; and "Let us carry out the work of training national cadres, upholding the respected and beloved leader's behest and following the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and bring up many men of ability who can actively contribute to further strengthening and enriching our country and our fatherland."

Students From Japan Visit Statue

SK0607053095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — The home-visiting group of students of Korean university under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and the home-visiting groups of Korean students in Japan laid floral baskets and made a bow on July 4 before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang.

The members of the home-visiting groups evinced their firm determination to remain loyal to respected general Kim Chong-il generation after generation, holding the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song in high esteem for all ages. They held in their hands placards reading "The great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song is always with us", "We will uphold the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il with loyalty and filial piety" and "We will certainly win because we are guided by the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il!"

On the same day, Yi Chong-no, advisor to the newspaper CHOSON SINBO, and his party laid a floral basket and made a bow before the statue of President Kim Il-song.

Symposium Lauds Kim Il-song's 'Greatness' 5 Jul

SK0507153195 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A central symposium to learn in depth from the greatness and immortal achievements of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was held in the People's Palace of Culture on 5 July on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; officials concerned, and officials from central organs; organizations for education of party cores; organizations of science, education, literature and art; the publication and press sector, and revolutionary judicial domains, participated in the symposium. [passage omitted]

Korean Residents Delegation From Japan Arrives

SK0607052495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — A delegation of Korean residents in Japan arrived in Pyongyang on July 5 to honor the memory of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song on the first anniversary of his death.

The delegation headed by Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) is composed of First Vice-Chairman Yi Chin-kyu and Chief Vice-Chairman Ho Chong-man of Chongnyon, officials of the central headquarters, local headquarters, branches and chapters of Chongnyon and officials of organisations and business bodies under Chongnyon.

It was met at the airport by Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-sun and officials concerned.

More Functions, Commemorations Reported 6 Jul

Paper Carries Pictures of Kim

SK0607215695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today devotes one whole page to pictures of President Kim Il-song conducting external activities under the bannerline title "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Will Always Be With Us".

It prints a picture with words "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who performed immortal feats for global independence," a picture of President Kim Il-song and Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba lifting up their clasped hands and expressing feelings of friendship and solidarity between the two countries (March 1986), a picture of the president exchanging cordial greetings with Deng Xiaoping of China (November 1989), a picture of him receiving a gift from Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia (April 1994) and a picture of him receiving Jimmy Carter of the United States (June 1994).

Also printed in the paper are pictures of President Kim Il-song receiving delegates from different countries when they paid a congratulatory visit to him (April 1987), receiving the son and daughter of Zhang Weihua and posing for a photograph with them (April 1985) and having a conversation with Ya. T. Novichenko, an internationalist, (April 1985).

Nepalese Officials Honor Kim

SK1107102595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 11 (KCNA) — A memorial service took place at the International Conference Hall of Kathmandu on July 6 on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Laid before a portrait of President Kim Il-song in the hall were floral baskets in the name of public organisations of Nepal.

Attending the memorial service were prime minister of the government Man Mohan Akhikari, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Royal Council Gyanendra Bahadur Sing, chairman of the National Council Beni Bahadur Karki, Chairman of the Nepal Worker-Peasant Party Narayan Man Bijukchhe [spelling of names as received], and other officials of the government, the House of Representatives, political parties, public organisations, academic and press circles.

The participants laid bouquets and flowers before the portrait of the great leader and paid a silent tribute to his memory.

The prime minister in his speech said Comrade Kim Il-song is a great leader who enjoyed absolute respect and trust of the world people. His august name is shining the world over for his great feats, the prime minister stressed, and added:

Though the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song parted with us, the great idea and immortal feats he left behind are an inspiring banner of humankind.

The chairman of the National Council said: President Kim Il-song was a working-class leader of a new type and a wise leader who gave encouragement to the world people. His death was an irrevocable big loss to the world.

Humankind will always remember him and his cause and idea will be successfully accomplished by his excellency Kim Chong-il.

The chairman of the Nepal Worker-Peasant Party said: The feats performed by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for humankind will be immortal.

We are convinced that the Korean people will achieve the reunification of the country independently in a peaceful way under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Trade Union Members Hold Meeting

SK0907101695 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A resolve meeting by functionaries and members of the trade union in Pyongyang to highly uphold the fatherly leader as the sun of chuche and loyally uphold the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership, on the first anniversary of the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, was held on 6 July at the Central Workers Hall. Functionaries concerned, and functionaries and members of the trade union in the city took part in the meeting.

During the meeting, Yi Kyong-il, chairman of the trade union of Pyongyang, gave a report. Next, discussions were held by Kang Yong- mo, chairman of the trade union of Nangnang district; Yi In-sik, chairman of the primary level of the trade union of the 25 March plant; and Choe Chon-su, chairman of the primary level organization of the trade union of the Pyongyang thermoelectric power complex.

The reporter and debaters said that today, which marks the first anniversary from the day the fatherly leader quite unexpectedly left our side, working class of the capital and trade union members are wholeheartedly looking back at his life embraced with the utmost yearning and boundless admiration .

They emphasized that they will eternally convey the fatherly leader's immortal achievements and benevolence; highly uphold the leader forever; and firmly unite around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end.

Ritual for Kim Held at Embassy in PRC 7 Jul

SK1007090295 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 7 July, a memorial service was held at the DPRK Embassy in the PRC on the first anniversary of the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

A portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was hung in front of the service. A slogan reading "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is Always With Us" was also hung there.

Laid before the portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a floral basket sent by His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia; floral baskets in the name of CPC Central Committee, the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Chinese Foreign and Defense

Ministries, and the China-DPRK Friendship Association; and floral baskets from various economic, cultural, and social organizations and individuals in the PRC.

There were also floral baskets from relatives of anti-Japanese revolutionaries, including the families of Zhang Jinlu; a daughter of Comrade Zhang Weihua; and Zhou Xi, a daughter of Comrade Zhou Baozhong.

Present at the memorial service was Comrade Hu Jintao, member of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee Secretariat; Wang Bingqian, vice chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee; Wu Xueqian, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Li Shuzheng, head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; Zhang Wannian, chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army; Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan; responsible functionaries of the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, the Ministry of Culture, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the Communist Youth League of China, the China-DPRK Friendship Association; and functionaries of central organizations under various ministries and committees in the PRC.

Also present at the memorial service were Zhang Jinlu, a daughter of Comrade Zhang Weihua, who was a revolutionary comrade of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and her family; Zhang Yimin, Zhang Weihua's brother; (Li Zaide) and his family, relatives of an anti-Japanese revolutionary; (Chang Jialan), a daughter of Sir (Chang Tue); (Chang Xiaowang) and his family; Zhou Xi, a daughter of Comrade Zhou Baozhong; and (Xue Men), wife of Comrade (Feng Zhongyun) and her family.

Ambassadors of many countries, diplomatic missions, and Korean citizens and compatriots living in the PRC also participated in the memorial service.

The memorial service began with the playing of the Song of General Kim Il-song. The participants paid silent tribute to the memory of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Then our country's ambassador and the head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee delivered addresses.

In his address, department head Li Shuzheng expressed deep condolences over President Kim Il-song's death and an ardent adoration for him on behalf of the CPC Central Committee on the first anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's death. He then noted as follows:

President Kim Il-song was the founder and leader of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], the Korean People's Army, and the DPRK. President Kim Il-song achieved the fatherland's liberation, established the people's government, and accumulated great achievements in building the DPRK-style of socialism. He concentrated great efforts on and enthusiasm in protecting and developing the traditional friendship between the parties and peoples of the two countries. He prepared the traditional PRC-DPRK friendship along with Chinese leaders of the old generation, he and made efforts for its continuous development. The CPC and the Chinese people will miss him forever.

Over the past year, the people of the DPRK have victoriously advanced in to build their country even better, to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of their fatherland, and to protect peace and security on the Korean peninsula by converting the sorrow of losing the great leader into strength and courage, firmly united around the WPK headed by the respected and beloved leader Kim Chong-il, upholding the teachings left by President Kim Il-song. We are very happy with this.

The PRC and the DPRK are friendly and neighboring nations, possessing a relationship like lips and teeth. To protect and consolidate the traditional PRC-DPRK friendship, as well as to strengthen and develop PRC-DPRK friendly and cooperative relations, not only coincides with the interests of the parties and peoples of the two countries, but is significant in guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula, in Northeast Asia, and in the world. As we did in the past, we will continue to make efforts in the future to consolidate and develop the traditional PRC-DPRK friendship prepared and enhanced by Chinese leaders of the old generation and by President Kim Il-song. Comrade Kim Il-song, a close friend of the Chinese people, will live forever.

The memorial service ended with the playing of the Song of General Kim Il-song.

Koreans in Americas Hold Memorial Service 7 Jul

SK1107101895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 11 (KCNA) — A memorial service for the great leader President Kim Il-song was held solemnly in Los Angeles on July 7 on the first anniversary of his death under the cosponsorship of the One Korea Movement, the North America-DPRK Friendship Association, the Federation of Koryo Businessmen in the Americas, the Association of Koryo Businesswomen, the Institute of the Idea of Independence in the Americas, Sinhan Minbo, the Theological Fellowship Society for Reunification and the Hanbonguri Society, which are organizations and enterprises of Koreans in the Americas.

Placed in front of a portrait of President Kim Il-song were floral baskets and flowers from sponsor organizations and service participants.

The participants paid a silent tribute to the memory of President Kim Il-song.

A joint memorial letter on his first death anniversary was read at the service.

The letter described President Kim Il-song as the benefactor, who showed great loving care for the Koreans in the Americas, revived the Korean nation and guided them to be builders of an independent, peaceful world; as a sage of the present time, who founded the chuche idea for the building of an independent, peaceful world; and as the savior of the 20th century, who is immortal in the hearts of the progressives of the world.

"Respected General Kim Chong-il is a great leader who inherited the cause of President Kim Il-song and represents the destiny of the country and the nation, and the lodestar of reunification," said the letter, adding: "Only when we unite closely around the general and take the patriotic road, can we be loyal to the behests of President Kim Il-song and successfully fulfil them."

The service was addressed by Han Mu-hak, adviser to the North America-DPRK Friendship Association; Hong Tong-kun, chairman of the Theological Fellowship Society for Reunification; and Yang Un-sik, permanent chairman of the U.S. Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification.

A poem dedicated to the first anniversary of President Kim Il- song's death was recited at the service.

The participants in the service sang in chorus "Nostalgia," a song which President Kim Il-song loved to sing in his lifetime.

Kim Chong-il Attends Kumsusan Palace Ceremony

SK0807113795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1107 GMT 8 Jul 95

["'Kumsusan Memorial Palace' Where President Kim Il-song is Preserved in State Opened to Public" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — "Kumsusan Memorial Palace" has been opened to the public today with a solemn ceremony on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of the great leader of our party and people President Kim Il- song. It has been built according to the decision of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Central Military Commission of the WPK, the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the DPRK on preserving President Kim Il-song in state.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, attended the ceremony.

The Kumsusan Assembly Hall is a time-honored holy land of revolution where President Kim Il-song guided the party and state affairs for many years, conducting energetic activities for the Korean revolution and the world revolution.

The palace was pervaded with a solemn atmosphere of deep reverence.

Hung on the facade of the palace was a portrait of President Kim Il-song and fluttering on its rooftop was a flag of the Republic.

Put up in the plaza in front of the palace were large sloganboards reading "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will always be with us" and "Let us accomplish the chuche revolutionary cause, true to the behests of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!"

Standing in the plaza were representatives of workers, cooperative farmers, soldiers of the People's Army and youths and other people from across the country, tens of thousands in all.

Present there were members of a delegation of Koreans in Japan led by Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), which came here to honor the memory of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song on the first anniversary of his death, and other Chongnyon delegations and home-visiting groups.

Chief of the Pyongyang mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea Yi Chong-sang and foreign diplomatic envoys in Korea were present on invitation.

Comrade Kim Chong-il arrived in the palace. He cut a red tape in front of the palace to declare at home and abroad the inauguration of "Kumsusan Memorial Palace."

Then, he entered in the hall of the memorial palace where the statue of President Kim Il-song is standing.

He was accompanied by Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Yong-chu, members of the

Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-presidents; and Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party and vice-president; and other senior party and state officials.

Present there were presbyter Pak Yong-kil, chairperson of the 70 million Korean people's meeting for embracing national unification and co-chairperson of the family movement for realizing democracy in South Korea, who is widow of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan; and Chong Kyong-mo, a Korean resident in Japan.

Flags of the Korean People's Army [KPA] were set up on each side of the statue of President Kim Il-song.

A guard of honor of the three services of the KPA presented arms looking up to the statue.

Laid before the statue of President Kim Il-song was a floral basket in the joint name of the Central Committee and the Central Military Commission of the WPK and the National Defence Commission, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the DPRK.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, together with senior party and state officials accompanying him, paid homage to the statue in deepest reverence.

He went up the stairs and entered the hall where President Kim Il-song is preserved in state as he was in his lifetime.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, together with the officials, made a bow to President Kim Il-song in deepest reverence.

People of different social strata made a bow to President Kim Il- song in deep reverence.

Comrade Kim Chong-il appeared on the platform of the plaza, together with his companions.

The ceremony for opening "Kumsusan Memorial Palace" began with a solemn playing of the immortal revolutionary hymn "Song of General Kim Il-song".

All the participants in the ceremony observed a moment's silence in memory of President Kim Il-song.

Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the KPA, addressed the ceremony upon the authorisation of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Meets Party, State Officials

SK0807114095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1110 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, today met senior party and state officials, leading Army officers and anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, who participated in the opening ceremony of Kumsusan Memorial Palace.

Comrade Kim Chong-il highly estimated distinguished services rendered by them in arduous and protracted yet glorious revolutionary struggle for freedom and liberation of the country, construction of a new Korea and accomplishment of the socialist cause, remaining infinitely loyal to the great leader President Kim Il-song, and posed for a photograph with them.

Meets Koreans From Japan

SK0807114395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1113 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today received the delegation of Koreans from Japan headed by Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), which has come to honour the memory of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song on the first anniversary of his death.

On hand was Kim Yong-sun.

Chairman Han Tok-su prayed for an eternal life of Comrade Kim Il-song, the permanent sun and father of the nation, and wished for a long life and good health of Comrade Kim Chong-il, carrying unanimous reverence of all the Chongnyon officials and 700,000 Koreans in Japan.

Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed thanks for it and had a cordial talk with members of the delegation with compatriotic feelings before having a souvenir picture taken with them.

Meets With Mun Ik-hwan's Widow

SK0807114795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1116 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today received presbyter Pak Yong- kil, widow of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, chairperson of the 70 million Korean people's meeting for embracing national unification and co-chairperson of the family movement for realizing democracy in South Korea, who came here to honor the memory of the great leader President Kim Il-song on the first anniversary of his death.

Present there were Kim Yong-sun and a Korean resident in Japan Chong Kyong-mo.

On the occasion, she prayed in reverence for the soul of the great leader President Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation and lodestar of national reunification, who devoted his whole life to the liberation of the country, the happiness of the people, national reunification and global independence, and wholeheartedly wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed thanks for this and had a talk with her in a cordial atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings.

Observances of Death Anniversary Continue 8 Jul

Party Cadres at Memorial Palace

SK0907003995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An opening ceremony of Kumsusan Memorial Palace, where the great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song is laid in eternal state, was solemnly held today. Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, attended the opening ceremony with leading party and state cadres. [passage omitted on the description of the scene and ribbon cutting by Kim Chong-il]

Comrade Kim Chong-il entered the hall where a statue of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song stands. Accompanying him were Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and premier of the Administration Council; Comrades Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Yong-chu, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK vice presidents; DPRK Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and deputy premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; Comrades Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho and Han Song-yong, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretaries of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Song-ae the widow; Comrade Kim Chol-man, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrades Choe Yong-nim and Hong Song-nam, candidate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Hong Sok-hyong, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Comrades Yi Ul-sol, Paek Hak-nim, Kim Kwang-chin, and Kim Ik-hyon, KPA vice marshals; Comrades Kim Ki-nam, Kum Kuk-tae, Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Chung-nin, So Kwan-hui, and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Hwan, Kim Pok-sin, Kim Chang-chu, Kim Yun-hyok, Chang Chol, and Kong Chin-tae, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee [CPC]; Comrade Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Committee; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the CPC State Inspection Commission; Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; members and candidate members of the WPK Central Committee; party functionaries, heroes, persons of merit, and representatives of various strata.

Mrs. Pak Yong-kil, widow of Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, chairwoman of the 70 million Korean people's meeting for embracing national unification, chairwoman of the family movement for realizing democracy in South Korea, and presbyter; and Chong Kyong-mo, a Korean resident in Japan, also attended. [passage omitted]

WPK Hosts Banquet

SK0907041795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the first anniversary of the death of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee hosted a banquet on 8 July at the People's Palace of Culture.

Present at the banquet were Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the Administration Council; Comrades Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, and Kim Yong-chu, members of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and vice presidents; DPRK Vice President

Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chief of the Korean People's Army [KPA] General Staff; Comrades Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho, and Han Song-yong, members of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretaries of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Chol-man, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrades Choe Yong-nim and Hong Song-nam, candidate members of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Hong Sok-hyong, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Comrades Yi Ul-sol, Paek Hak-nim, Kim Kwang-chin, and Kim Ik-hyon, KPA vice marshals; Comrades Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Chung-nin, and So Kwan-hui, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Hwan, Kim Pok-sin, Kim Yun-hyok, Chang Chol, and Kong Chin-tae, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee; Comrade Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee; Comrade Chon Mun- sop, chairman of the Central People's Committee State Inspection Commission; Mrs. Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; members and candidate members of the WPK Central Committee; chairmen of committees and ministers of the Administration Council; chief officials of public organizations; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; KPA generals; chief officials of scientific, educational, cultural, arts, and publication and media organizations; relatives, those who were honored with the audience [of Kim Chong-il], and people of merit.

Members of a condolence delegation of Korean residents in Japan on the first anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il- song's death, a delegation led by Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, also attended the banquet.

Mrs. Pak Yong-kil, widow of Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, chairwoman of the 70 million Korean people's meeting for embracing national unification, chairwoman of the family movement for realizing democracy in South Korea, and presbyter; and Chong Kyong-mo, a Korean resident in Japan, also attended the banquet.

The national anthem was played at the banquet. Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and vice president, delivered a speech.

With the enthusiastic loyalty and boundless admiration of the entire party, the entire Army, and all the people, the participants in the banquet toasted for the eternal life of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, the eternal leader of our party and people and the sun of chuche, and the long life and good health of Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and supreme commander of the KPA.

Memorial Service Held in Japan

SK1007055695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, July 8 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA) — A central memorial service of Koreans in Japan was held solemnly today at the Korean House of Culture in Tokyo on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

A floral basket of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) was laid before a portrait of the great leader, with deep reverence of the officials of Chongnyon and compatriots in Japan.

The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

A memorial address was followed by speeches.

Vice-chairman So Man-sul said in his memorial address that Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the first great leader the Korean nation acclaimed in its history of 5,000 years, was a gifted thinker and theoretician, prominent statesman and ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander.

He said that the great leader was the founder of the socialist Korea, the bright sun of the independent era and the greatest man who performed the biggest exploits in the 20th century.

He noted that Generalissimo Kim Il-song was the father and mental support for the Koreans in Japan.

He emphasized that Generalissimo Kim Il-song will be immortal with the cause of chuche being led by the respected General Kim Chong-il to ultimate victory.

Meanwhile, memorial services for Generalissimo Kim Il-song were held at local headquarters of Chongnyon today.

Services Held in Provinces

SK0907092095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 9 (KCNA) — Memorial meetings or services were solemnly held in provinces, cities, counties and at complexes in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on July 8 on the first anniversary of the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Put up at the meeting places were slogans "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is always with us", "Let us arm ourselves more firmly with the revolutionary idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!", "Let us hold the great Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the eternal leader of our party and people and the sun of chuche!" and "Let us accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche true to the behests of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!"

Present there were leading officials of local party and power bodies, administrative and economic organs and working people's organisations, workers, peasants, intellectuals, youth, students and people of other social strata.

The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of President Kim Il-song.

Leading officials of provinces, cities, counties and complexes made memorial addresses which were followed by speeches of representatives of various social strata.

The speakers said that President Kim Il-song was a great revolutionary, a great man and a tender-hearted father of the people who devoted his all solely to the country, the people and the revolution till the last moment of his life.

To hold the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the destiny and future of the country and the nation, in higher esteem is precisely to exalt through generations the undying exploits performed by President Kim Il-song, the speakers said, and evinced their determination to register great successes in production and construction under the leadership of respected General Kim Chong-il.

Papers Commemorate Anniversary

SK0807110195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — Papers here today make up special editions with articles and photographs on the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Papers carry an account of a national memorial service solemnly held in Pyongyang on July 7 on the first death anniversary of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, with a photo of the platform of the service.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, was present at the memorial service.

Seen in papers are a memorial address made by Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, speeches made by representatives of the Workers' Party of Korea, the officers and men of the Korean People's Army and the young people and a speech by Ho Chong-man, chief vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

NODONG SINMUN devotes one whole page to a poem written by President Kim Il-song on the 50th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, a photograph of the president writing the poem and photographs showing him standing on top of Mt. Paektu, looking at Kimchongilia (February 1988) and standing in front of the native house of Comrade Kim Chong-il in the secret camp of Mt. Paektu (August, 1988) and other photographs on his great revolutionary life.

MINJU CHOSON devotes one whole page to photographs of President Kim Il-song who put forward the five-point policy of national reunification and inspired Koreans in the South and overseas to realization of national reunification.

"The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Our People are Always in Perfect Harmony" is the title of an editorial of NODONG SINMUN.

"Let Us Hold the Great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in High Esteem for all Ages and Accomplish the Socialist Cause of Chuche" is the title of an editorial of MINJU CHOSON.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN are letters to Comrade Kim Chong-il sent by the Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon and the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea on the first death anniversary of president Kim Il-song.

The paper also carries a telegram sent by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China to the WPK Central Committee on his first death anniversary.

Papers report that floral baskets were laid before the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill by people of all strata, soldiers of the People's Army, overseas Koreans, foreigners, foreign embassies in Pyongyang and the widow of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, who was a patriotic figure of South Korea for reunification, and that floral baskets sent by the organizations for the study of the chuche idea in different countries were laid there.

Under the blockletter title "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Will Always Be With Us" MINJU CHOSON carries words of the Korean people who are missing the fatherly leader.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that Japanese figures and diplomatic envoys in Japan honoured the memory of President Kim Il-song.

Youth, Students Honor Kim's Memory

SK0907092195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0849 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 9 (KCNA) — A "memorial evening" of youth, school children and students in Pyongyang was held before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song at the Pyongyang School Children's Palace on July 8 on the first anniversary of his death.

Present there were Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, officials concerned and more than 10,000 youth, school children and students in the city.

Before the gathering, the floral baskets and bouquets were laid before the statue of President Kim Il-song in the name of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK], the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the LSWYK and LSWYK organisations of central organs, industrial establishments, cooperative farms, universities and colleges and schools in the city.

The speakers said that the respected father Generalissimo Kim Il- song who started his revolutionary activities in his early years with the student movement procured valuable wealth for the victorious advance of the Korean youth movement and wisely led the work of the LSWYK in each period and at each stage of the developing revolution.

Noting that the youth, school children and students have kept in their hearts a firm faith and will that the future of the revolution and the youth movement is bright as they are guided by the great General Kim Chong-il, the speakers stressed that they should staunchly fight to make their country and their motherland more prosperous under his leadership, keeping their pledge made before the bier of Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

The epic "Comrade Kim Il-song, Our Eternal Leader" and the poem "The Leader is Immortal as There is the General" and others were recited at the evening. Then youth and children told about the loving care shown to them by Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

The moment the clock bell of the Grand People's Study House rang out two, evoking a sad memory, the participants made a deep bow before the statue of President Kim Il-song.

'Many People' Visit Kumsusan Memorial Palace

SK1007053095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0455 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — Many people visit "Kumsusan Memorial Palace" where the great leader of our party and people President Kim Il-song is preserved in state.

It was visited Sunday by officials of party and power bodies, administration and economic organs and officers and men of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

In the spacious hall where a statue of President Kim Il-song stands, they paid homage to him in deep reverence amid the playing of the immortal revolutionary hymn "Song of General Kim Il-song."

Then, they entered the hall where the respected leader President Kim Il-song is laid in state as he was in his lifetime and made a bow to him and prayed for his immortality.

An Hui-chol, vice-director of Secretariat No. 1 of the Administration Council, said that proved in the practice over the past one year were the validity and vitality of the last teachings the great leader gave the Korean people on July 6, 1994.

"We will contribute to making our country, our homeland more prosperous by fulfilling the behests of the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song to the letter under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il," he said.

A KPA officer, Choe Il-hwan, wrote in the visitor's book:

"We will become fortress and shields to defend respected General Kim Chong-il with loyalty, deeply cherishing the honor of having the great leaders through generations, the blessings provided by President Kim Il-song."

Messages Sent on Occasion of Death Anniversary

State, Party Leaders' Messages

SK0607103095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages from president of the Republic of Guinea Lansana Conte, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic Mohamed Abdelaziz and First Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia Norodom Ranariddh on the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The Saharan president said the image of President Kim Il-song, an outstanding leader and a great man, would remain forever in the minds of the peoples of Korea and third world countries.

The Guinean president reaffirmed his firm will to continue expanding and developing the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation with Korea.

The first prime minister of Cambodia expressed the belief that his government would invariably follow the consistent policy which his majesty King Norodom Sihanouk has maintained for the biggest interests of the two peoples.

Messages were sent to Comrade Kim Chong-il on the same occasion also by General Secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party B. Dashyondon and Chairman of the Peruvian Nationalist Movement of Labour Eleazar Gutarra Maravi.

Diplomatic Corps Sends Letter

SK0607215995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1538 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today received a letter from diplomatic corps in Korea on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

The letter was handed to Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam by Egyptian Ambassador 'Ali Hijazi on behalf of the diplomatic corps.

On the occasion the ambassador said he was deeply impressed by the infinite loyalty of the Korean people to the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

He expressed the belief that under the wise guidance of his excellency the great leader Kim Chong-il the Korean people will surely achieve the peaceful reunification of Korea true to the behests of the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

CPC Sends Message to WPK

SK0807042495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0408 GMT 8 Jul 95

["Message to WPK Central Committee From CPC Central Committee" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — A message came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on July 7 on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

We express our ardent longing for President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people and an intimate friend of the Chinese people, through the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and all the Korean people on his first death anniversary, the message says, and continues:

When he was alive, Comrade Kim Il-song devoted great efforts and energies to the defence and development of the friendship between the two parties and two peoples of China and Korea and propelled steady development of friendly and cooperative relations between China and Korea with the leaders of the old generation of China.

Though President Kim Il-song passed away, the Communist Party and the people of China will never forget him and deeply remember his great exploits.

In the last one year, the Korean people, surmounting their great grief at the loss of their great leader and changing their sorrow into strength, have continued their victorious advance to build their country better, achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of their country and defend the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula, closely united around the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

We are following this with delight.

We sincerely hope the friendship between the two parties and peoples of China and Korea will remain green for all ages.

Chongnyon Sends Letter of Loyalty

SK0807044695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 8 Jul 95

["Letter to Marshal Kim Chong-il From Chongnyon Central Standing Committee" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — The great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il on July 8 received a letter from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

The letter said:

Today, we solemnly commemorated the first death anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song in deepest reverence with the firm faith that he is always with us.

Generalissimo Kim Il-song, peerless ever in the Korean nation's history spanning five thousand years, was an outstanding thinker and theoretician, a distinguished statesman and an ever-victorious iron- willed brilliant commander, the founder of socialist Korea and a tender-hearted father of all the fellow countrymen including us Korean residents in Japan.

Although Generalissimo Kim Il-song passed away, Chongnyon and the Korean residents in Japan, together with the people in the homeland, are stubbornly following the road of chuche paved by him because we are led by you, the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il, who inherited all his ideas and leadership traits.

All our hearts are powerfully pulsating with the firm faith that you, respected Marshal Kim Chong-il, are precisely Generalissimo Kim Il-song and we are sure to win under any trials and adversities because we are guided by you.

The letter vowed to more firmly build up Chongnyon into a patriotic organisation boundlessly loyal to Marshal Kim Chong-il.

Chongnyon and the Korean residents in Japan will devote their patriotism and sincerity to the prosperity and development of their country and motherland and conduct a more dynamic movement for national reunification this year in which falls the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country from the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, it added.

It wished respected Marshal Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Letters From South Koreans

SK1007110695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — The great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il received messages and letters from compatriots under the influence of the South Korean Residents Association in Japan and South Koreans staying in Japan, on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song's death.

They express their yearning and deep reverence for President Kim Il-song on the 1st anniversary of his death.

They also express their resolution to uphold him for all ages and their belief that national reunification will be realised without fail as long as the Korean nation is guided by respected General Kim Chong-il.

They vow to devote themselves to the struggle for an early reunification of the country under the leadership of General Kim Chong-il, upholding "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" put forward by President Kim Il-song.

Koreans in Japan Send Messages

SK1007102395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — The great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il received messages and letters from the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, other organizations of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and their subsidiary organs, enterprises, prefectural offices of Chongnyon, the Korean schools and compatriots in Japan, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song's death.

They say that over the past one year since the fatherly leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song passed away, they have keenly felt what a great leader the Korean nation had and what a great honor it had in having the great leader.

They note that Generalissimo Kim Il-song was the father of socialist Korea, the tender-hearted father of the nation.

They say that though he passed away, the Koreans in Japan, with the people in the homeland, could have fresh strength and courage and advance more vigorously along the road of chuche pioneered by Generalissimo Kim Il-song as they have respected Marshal Kim Chong-il who has fully inherited his idea and leadership.

The messages and letters wish Marshal Kim Chong-il a long life in good health.

Foreign Leaders Praise Kim Il-song

SK1007152195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Spelling of all names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — Answers to questions raised by the director of the Editorial Board of the KCNA came from General Secretary of the National Convention Party of Ghana Alhaji A.B. Ziblim, Chairman of the African Socialist Movement of the Congo Gerard Francois Yandza and Chairman of the Central Committee of the Mauritius Communist Party L. Chandramun on the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Alhaji A.B. Ziblim said the great leader President Kim Il-song's was the life of the greatest and outstanding leader of the people and human history has recorded a number of great men and leaders but does not know such a leader as President Kim Il-song, who performed distinguished feats for prosperity of the nation and independence of humankind.

Though President Kim Il-song passed away with the revolutionary cause of chuche and the reunification of the country which he desired earnestly in his lifetime being yet to be realized, victory and glory are in store for the Korean people because they are guided by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, he said.

Gerard Francois Yandza said his excellency the great President Kim Il-song was the greatest internationalist who devoted all his life to peace of the world and the internationalist cause. He was a great man who showed deep concern and care not only for the Korean nation but also for other nations, peoples of third world countries in particular, he noted.

L. Chandramun said the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put an end to the humiliating history of the Korean people, the distress- torn history, opened a new revolutionary era and handed the socialist banner over to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il so that the Korean people can continue confidently advancing along the road of socialism.

Comrade Kim Il-song was the father of the Korean nation and is a symbol of independent development and prosperity of the world, he said, adding that he is alive always in the minds of the world people.

More Foreign Officials Comment

SK1107051395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 11 (KCNA) — High-ranking officials of different countries gave answers to questions put by Korean men of the press on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The president of the National Assembly of Togo, Dahuku Pere [name as received], said the whole life of the great President Kim Il-song, particularly, exploits performed by him in fight against two imperialisms, prove that he had a strong will which is nowhere to be found.

Respected President Kim Il-song is immortal as the master of leadership art who led the world people to centuries-old changes, he added.

Saman Vi-gnaket, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and speaker of the National Assembly, said he pays high tribute to the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song who had clairvoyance.

He said that Comrade President Kim Il-song put up Comrade Kim Chong-il as a faithful heir to him, and that Comrade Kim Chong-il has long made active efforts to assist Comrade President Kim Il-song to carry into practice the idea and intention of President Kim Il- song.

Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqa, vice-president of the Syrian Arab Republic, had this to say:

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song made every possible effort to achieve the peaceful reunification of Korea, support the liberation struggle on a worldwide scale and realise independence in different parts of the world. It is natural, therefore, that his death left a great shock to the hearts of the Korean people as well as many peoples of the world.

[Words indistinct], member of the parliament of the Republic of Mauritius, said the passing away of his excellency the great leader Kim Il-song was the biggest loss to the Korean people and the world people and his august name will shine long with the times.

His anthropocentric philosophical idea serves as a model leaders of other countries should follow, he added.

NDFSK Committee Sends Letter

SK0807103695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on July 8 received a letter from the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) on the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The letter says:

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song, the pride and glory of the Korean nation, was a great man for all ages and a peerless great leader who came from heaven and a brilliant sun ardently worshipped by all the people on this globe.

He performed undying exploits which will shine forever for the people's cause of independence with his great idea, outstanding leadership ability and noble virtues, regarding it as his maxim to "believe in the people as in heaven" for 80 odd years.

The great leader, a legendary hero and an ever-victorious iron- willed brilliant commander, accomplished the cause of national liberation, demonstrated the dignity and honor of the nation to the whole world and adorned the history of anti-imperialist and anti-U.S. struggle with a new victory by defeating two imperialist powers in one generation.

He spent days and nights of concern and efforts till the last moment of his great life to make the beloved fellow countrymen enjoy happiness and blessings in a reunified country through generations. He put forward the great programs of reunification including the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, thus opening a bright prospect for independent reunification.

Our nation who had their leader in the person of the great Comrade Kim Il-song praised by the times and humankind is now holding you, sagacious General Kim Chong-il, in high esteem as another great leader. It is now exalted as a glorious and honorable nation blessed with great leaders through generations.

It is the faith and obligation of all the South Korean people, members of the glorious Kim Il-song nation, to esteem and follow respected Comrade Kim Il-song as their great leader and the sun of chuche forever.

We will further promote the arming of the NDFSK with Kimilsongism and develop the ever-growing struggle against the "civilian" dictatorship into a nationwide resistance for national salvation and reunification and thus open up an epochal phase for the reunification in the 1990s this year in which falls the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country.

It sincerely wishes the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Messages From Abroad Continue

SK0807054895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages from foreign state and party leaders on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great September first Revolution of the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in his message highly estimated the efforts made by the great president in his lifetime for the struggle of the good-natured Korean people against U.S.-led imperialism and colonialism and for the reunification of the country and his encouragement to the third world peoples for freedom and liberation.

We highly appreciate the decision of the Korean Government and people on preserving in state His Excellency President Kim Il-song, who will be immortal although years may pass and the generation may change, the Libyan leader stressed.

The message from Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, said that Comrade Kim Il-song was not only the founder of the Workers' Party of Korea and its general secretary but also a great leader who successfully built modern socialism by organising and mobilising all the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Klaus Riis, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Denmark (Marxist-Leninist), noted in his message that they are convinced that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would continue to make a powerful advance toward socialism in accordance with the line set forth by Comrade Kim Il-song and to fight for the peaceful reunification of divided Korea.

Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Direction Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal, in his message expressed the belief that the Korean people would hold the great President Kim Il-song in high esteem forever and creditably implement his behests in keeping with the requirements of the new realities and the times.

Floral Tributes Made in Memory of Kim Il-song

Embassy Officials Bring Flowers

SK0607215895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1536 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — Officials of foreign embassies in Pyongyang today laid floral baskets before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill and made bows on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

Among them were Chinese Ambassador Qiao Zonghuai and embassy officials, Cuban Ambassador Jose Ramon

Rodriguez Varona and embassy officials, Cambodian Ambassador Oum Mannorine and embassy officials, and Iranian Ambassador Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari and embassy officials.

The Chinese ambassador said that though President Kim Il-song passed away, he will be alive forever in their hearts.

The Cambodian ambassador said that the Cambodian people will always remember the loving care of the president for them.

The Iranian ambassador said that his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song wisely led the struggle against the U.S. and Japanese imperialisms to the victory of the Korean people and built a paradise in this land and that his life was one of the struggle devoted for the people.

The Cuban ambassador said that the Cuban people's respect for his excellency President Kim Il-song is now growing deeper as the days go by and that he made a great contribution to the development of friendly relations between Cuba and Korea.

Meanwhile, the Yugoslav Ambassador to Korea Ljubomir Ojukic and the branch of Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY respectively laid a bouquet and a floral basket before the statue of President Kim Il-song and made bows.

Diplomats Lay Flowers at Statue

SK0807052395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — Diplomatic envoys and embassy officials of Vietnam, Nigeria, Bulgaria, Syria and Poland, and the military attache of the Egyptian Embassy in Pyongyang on July 7 laid floral baskets and bouquets and made bows before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on the occasion of his first death anniversary.

The Vietnamese ambassador said that the Vietnamese people would make every possible effort to develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries forged by President Kim Il-song.

The Nigerian ambassador noted that the world has been enveloped in sorrow and grief at the death of the great leader. Although his heart stopped beating, he will be kept forever in the hearts of the people in the form of eternal life, he added.

The Bulgarian ambassador noted that President Kim Il-song will enjoy an eternal life.

He expressed the belief that Comrade Kim Chong-il will successfully defend the feats of President Kim Il-song without fail.

The charge d'affaires ad interim of the Syrian embassy had this to say:

I honor the memory of the great leader President Kim Il-song on the occasion of his first death anniversary.

I hope that the Korean people will register greater victory in the revolution and construction by powerfully advancing along the line set out by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

On the same day, officials of the Chinese and Russian civil aviation missions and the Russian air-borne import-export mission in Korea laid floral baskets and made bows before the statue of President Kim Il-song.

Japanese Delegates Lay Flowers

SK0607053195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — A delegation of Korean residents in Japan which came here to honor the memory of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song on the first anniversary of his death laid a floral basket and made a bow before his statue on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang on July 5.

Present there were the members of the delegation headed by Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

Also present were Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-sun and officials concerned.

Written in the ribbon hanging down from the floral basket were words reading "The great revolutionary exploits of the respected leader generalissimo Kim Il-song will be immortal."

Cuban Communists Send Basket

SK1007105895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Havana, July 8 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba sent a floral basket to the Korean Embassy in Havana on July 7 on the first anniversary of the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Foreign Envoys Lay Floral Baskets

SK1007104595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Spelling of names of all non-state leaders as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — Floral baskets were laid by foreign diplomatic envoys in Pyongyang and officials concerned before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song in Kumsusan Memorial Palace on July 8 on the occasion of his first death anniversary.

The floral baskets came from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic Liamine Zeroual, President of the State of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat, head of state of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Sani Abacha, President of the Republic of Guinea Lansana Conte, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto, the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism) [M-L] and General Secretary of the Egyptian National Democratic Party Youssef Amin Wali.

Lying before the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill were floral baskets from party leaders, political parties, organisations and public figures of many countries the world over on the same day.

The floral baskets were sent by President Krishna Prasad Battaray of the Central Committee of the Nepali Congress Party, the Central Committee of the Nepal Worker-Peasant Party, General Secretary Rifaat es-Said of the National Progressive Unionist Party of Egypt, Secretary General Ali Saleh Obad Mokbil of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, the Central Committee of the African Independent Party of Senegal, General Secretary Talal Hafun ala Mai of the People's Unity Party (Unionist) of Jordan, the Arab Islamic Democratic Movement of Jordan, Secretary General Claudio Campos of the Central Committee of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil, Chairman Genaro Ledesma Izquieta of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru, National President Jean Spielmann of the Workers' Party of Switzerland, the Central Committee of the Communist Party (M-L) of Denmark, the Workers' Party of Ireland, the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea, the Cultural Information Center on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Swiss Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification, the Geneva Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification, Chairman Angel Castro Lavarello of the Peru-Korea Institute of Culture and Friendship, widow of Japan's former Prime Minister Mutsuko Miki, the Japan-Korea Friendship Information Centre, the Japan S.B.B. Company Ltd., the Japan-Korea Society of Agricultural Farmers for Friendship and Exchanges, the seventh delegation of the society, the Chiba Prefecture, Japan, Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea, the Ichihara Society for the Study of Korean Affairs in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, Secretary General Masagazu Yokobori of the Liaison Council of the Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Japanese Teachers, a "delegation of peace tour to Pyongyang for Japan-Korea amity and friendship", Japan, the Gakuei School in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, Togo Shiono of the Gaiso Society for the Study of Korean Affairs in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, Gatsuko Matsuda of the Ichikawa Society for the Study of Korean Affairs in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, the Australia-Korea Council and the Jilin Yuwen Middle School in China.

Floral baskets came from the Dandong Import and Export Company of China and the Border Trade Bureau in Liaoning Province, China.

More People Give Floral Tributes

SK0807051895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — Working people from all walks of life, Korean People's Army [KPA] soldiers, overseas Koreans and foreigners laid floral baskets, bouquets and blossoms before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and paid homage to him on the evening of July 7 on the occasion of his first death anniversary.

Mansu Hill, its environs and adjoining streets were overcrowded with people who gathered to cherish President Kim Il-song's memory.

A floral basket sent by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, was placed before the statue of President Kim Il- song.

The chief of the guard of honour of the three services of the KPA reported toward the statue.

The national anthem was played.

Amid the playing of music, floral baskets were laid before the statue in the name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Central Military Commission of the WPK, the DPRK National Defence Commission, the DPRK Central People's Committee, the Administration Council, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, those who made distinguished services in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in Pyongyang, the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces, the Ministry of Public Security, units of the Korean People's Army, delegates from local areas to the national memorial service, commissions and ministries of the Administration Council, the Korean Children's Union, political parties and public organizations, central organs, institutions of science, education, culture and art, health and the press, party and power bodies, administrative and economic organs, working people's organizations, factories and enterprises in Pyongyang.

Also laid before the statue were floral baskets in the name of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan, the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the General Association of Korean Residents in China, chairman of the overseas headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) Yun I-sang and his family, secretary general of Pomminnyon Yim Min-sik and his family, the European headquarters of Pomminnyon, president of the International Taekwondo Federation Choe Hong-hui, president of the World Peace Federation Mun Son-myong, president of the association of the overseas Christians for the reunification of the country Yi Yong-pin and his wife, and compatriots in different parts of the world.

Floral baskets were also laid before the statue in the name of the diplomatic corps, military attaches corps, economic and commercial councillors corps and other foreigners here.

Written on the ribbons hanging from the floral baskets were letters "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is immortal", "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will always be with us" and "the great revolutionary feats of the respected leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song will be everlasting".

Significance of Kumsusan Memorial Palace Viewed

SK1007101895 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1010 GMT 10 Jul 95

["NODONG SINMUN on Significance of 'Kumsusan Memorial Palace'" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — The opening of "Kumsusan Memorial Palace" to preserve the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in state is the brilliant realization of the noblest desire and unanimous aspirations of all our party members, officers and men of the People's Army and people.

NODONG SINMUN says this today in an editorial headlined "It Is Our People's Unshakable Will To Uphold the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song for All Ages" as regards the solemn inaugural ceremony of the palace on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

The editorial says:

"Kumsusan Memorial Palace" is a time-honored place associated with the glorious revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Il-song, the eternal sun of chuche, and a supreme holy land of revolution where he is preserved in state.

The opening of the palace makes our people see him as in his lifetime whom they are bitterly missing, and has the bonds of kinship between him and them solidified more firmly to be inseparable, eternal and invariable.

It also provides the progressive humankind with a grand sacred seat of revolution which always gives it confidence and courage and with a supreme holy land of the cause of independence. It is a historical event of great significance in the political life of our people and in the accomplishment of the popular masses' cause of independence.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"It is our people's unshakable will to loyally uphold the respected Comrade Kim Il-song forever as the leader of our party and revolution."

Comrade Kim Il-song is the benefactor of life, saviour, tender-hearted teacher and great father for our people, who gave them precious life and boundless happiness.

To preserve him in state for all ages is the unanimous aspiration of the whole party, the entire army and all the people, the strong desire of all the fellow countrymen and the ardent wish of the world revolutionary people aspiring after independence. With this national and human desire being realized, our hearts are overflowing with deep emotion. Our people will take tens of thousands of miles of road of revolution, deeply revering Comrade Kim Il-song who is preserved in state in the palace.

The Kumsusan area has been glorified as the supreme holy land of chuche. This is the greatest contribution made by Comrade Kim Chong-il to the era and history, the country and the people.

"Kumsusan Memorial Palace" has been built up nobly, grandly and perfectly in the form, content and scale under the energetic and detailed guidance of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The palace is, indeed, a crystal of noble moral outlook of Comrade Kim Chong-il and the acme of his sincerity to Comrade Kim Il-song.

We should hold Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem for all ages on the occasion of the opening of the palace, the editorial says, and continues:

All the party members, officers and men of the People's Army and the people should hold Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the sun of chuche for all ages, deeply cherishing in their minds the faith that he will always be with them.

All the party members and other people should more deeply cherish in their hearts ardent reverence for and boundless loyalty to Comrade Kim Il-song, always looking up to him who has been preserved in state at the palace, whether they are in joy or in difficulty.

For us to uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty and filial piety in one mind is immediately a way of holding Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem for all ages.

All the people and officers and men of the People's Army should unite around the great Comrade Kim Chong-il, firmly believe only in him in one mind and stoutly take tens of thousands of miles of road of revolution, as intended by Comrade Kim Il-song in his lifetime.

We should entirely entrust all our destinies to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the destiny and future of our country and revolution, and become citadels and shields to defend him at the risk of our lives.

Kim Il-song's Activities in Pyongyang Described

SK0807112895 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1032 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — The Kumsusan area in Taesong district, Pyongyang, has become the supreme holy land of chuche according to the decision of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Central Military Commission of the WPK, the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the DPRK "on preserving the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in state".

Situated in the Kumsusan area is the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in which President Kim Il-song worked for many years, wisely leading the affairs of party and state and the Korean revolution and the human cause of independence. Now, the hall was renamed "Kumsusan Memorial Palace" according to the decision.

Pyongyang which preserves President Kim Il-song in state is a time-honored holy land which is inseparably linked with his revolutionary career.

He was born in Mangyongdae of Pyongyang on April 15, 1912, when the destiny of the Korean nation was at stake. When he was in the teens, he embarked upon the road of the revolution to retake the country from the Japanese imperialists.

He liberated the country by making the anti-Japanese revolution for 20 years. He made the first speech in Pyongyang after his triumphant return home and met the people of the motherland.

Pyongyang is the operational centre for the revolution in which he mapped out all lines and policies and led the Korean revolution and the human cause of independence, working as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In his lifetime, the president wrote and published famous works in Pyongyang and received here more than 230 heads of party, state and government and many figures of political, public and other circles of foreign countries and encouraged them to the struggle for the advance and victory of the cause of independence.

Notably, he warmly loved and took meticulous care of Pyongyang in his lifetime.

Just after the country was liberated, he initiated the River Pothong improvement project. On May 21, 1946, he personally came out to the starting ceremony of the project and drove the first shovel into the ground, thus opening a new history of the construction of Pyongyang.

In the post-war period, he became the chairman of the Pyongyang city rehabilitation committee and, with a view to reconstructing Pyongyang which had been reduced to ashes, he visited the Kangnam brickyard as soon as he got down from the rostrum celebrating the victory in the war.

Each of structures of as many as 40 new modern streets in Pyongyang is associated with the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history and undying exploits of the president.

The Korean people erected statues of the president, historical and other monuments and towers in various places of time-honored Pyongyang which are associated with his footprints.

Pyongyang will prosper forever with President Kim Il-song preserved in state.

Chuche Institute Head Writes About Kim Il-song

SK0807050295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 8 Jul 95

["The Sun of Chuche Will Shine Forever" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 7 (KCNA) — Dr. Shuhachi Inoue, an "International Kim Il-song Prize" recipient and director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, published an article titled "The Sun of Chuche Will Shine Forever" on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

This article was carried by NODONG SINMUN July 6.

In the article, Shuhachi Inoue said that President Kim Il-song who founded the supreme philosophy on human love and made the spring song about man spread over this globe is, indeed, the sun of chuche looked up to by the whole humankind.

In the first part of the article, he said that the great President Kim Il-song enjoys an eternal life as the sun of chuche because he performed undying exploits which will be handed down together with human history.

Looking back on the days when he had the audience of President Kim Il-song during his visit to Korea, he said that President Kim Il-song was the father who looked after all people of the country as his sons and daughters.

He further wrote:

President Kim Il-song was not only a leader of a country but also the lodestar of human emancipation who devoted all his life to the human cause of independence with ardent love for man and a noble sense of internationalist obligation.

Although he passed away, leaving the world people behind, his noble ideas and theories and undying exploits powerfully encourage the march of humanity toward global independence.

With the immortal chuche idea founded by President Kim Il-song, the philosophical idea centred on materials was developed into a philosophical idea centred on people and the 20th century distinguished itself in history.

The most valuable gift given by President Kim Il-song to humankind is the chuche idea.

It was thanks to the truth of the chuche idea authored by President Kim Il-song that humankind has become a new independent one.

In this sense, he is the father of independent humankind. Herein lies his distinguished and incomparable contribution without an equal in human history.

In the second part, the author said:

The great President Kim Il-song enjoys an eternal life because the leader Kim Chong-il who is the same as him is leading the human cause of independence.

I have been firmly convinced that the leader Kim Chong-il is, indeed, an outstanding statesman who is boundlessly loyal to the leader of the people and is infinitely devoted to the party and the revolution.

Upon receiving "Socialism Is a Science" authored by the leader Kim Chong-il, I was struck with admiration at the great devotion, extraordinary intelligence and efforts of him who devoted his thinking and energies to the cause of global independence, feeling his historical responsibility for the destiny of humanity and the development of the times, which was once shouldered by the president, despite his deep sorrow plus the nation's grief at the death of the president.

Repeatedly reading the work of the leader Kim Chong-il solemnly declaring the unshakable determination and iron will to defend and exalt socialism, true to the cause of President Kim Il-song, I felt more deeply the immovable truth that socialism is sure to win under his guidance.

Pointing out that voices praising the leader Kim Chong-il as a distinguished leader of the present century and the 21st century are ringing out from all parts of the world, the author said:

Praise of humankind for the leader Kim Chong-il is an eruption of their unpretentious feelings, captivated by his philosophical wisdom and human love.

The leader Kim Chong-il, who is developing and enriching the chuche idea, the supreme philosophy of love, is, indeed, the incarnation of human love and a great philosopher and outstanding thinker and theoretician unprecedented in history.

The earth moves, history flows and mankind develops as there is the leader Kim Chong-il. This is an unshakable faith and will of the progressive peoples and our followers of the chuche idea all over the world.

In the last part, the author said:

A true society for the people is built in a country which is guided by a great leader.

Today's Korea which is firmly maintaining its stand, decisively repulsing all sanctions and offensives of the imperialist allies is precisely Korea of the leader Kim Chong-il.

The leader Kim Chong-il is precisely President Kim Il-song and vice versa. This means President Kim Il-song did not pass away.

The great idea of President Kim Il-song will shine more brilliantly thanks to energetic ideological and theoretical activities of the leader Kim Chong-il. The noble virtues of the president will reach the heart of humankind under the deep love of the leader Kim Chong-il.

The great President Kim Il-song will shine forever as the brilliant sun of the sky as the outstanding leader Kim Chong-il who fully personifies all qualities of President Kim Il-song is leading the human cause of independence.

Kim's Death Anniversary Commemorated Overseas

SK1007105695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — Memorial services were held by the Senegalese Democratic League-Movement for the Party of Workers, the Romanian Party for New Society, the Bayanjurh District Police Bureau, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in the Kim Chong-il Taekwon-do Club in Mongolia, Jordan, New Delhi, Otwock city of Poland and Moscow on the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Present there were members of political parties and public organizations.

Memorial addresses and speeches were delivered at the memorial services.

Sazhi Umalatova [spelling of name as received], chairwoman of the Permanent Standing Committee of the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies, said that though President Kim Il-song passed away, he left wealth greatest in the world and his cause will be advanced by Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great son of the Korean people.

Madan Mohan [spelling of name as received], secretary general of the National Association of Researchers of India, said that the life of the great leader President Kim Il-song, the greatest thinker, theoretician and practician of the 20th century, was the most brilliant life to be followed by all the revolutionaries and called upon all the political parties, organizations, and friendship and study groups to set July 8 as "day of immortality" and "day of pledge to live and struggle like the great leader."

Books Published on Anniversary of Kim's Death

SK0507115795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA) — Many new books were published by several publishing houses in Korea on the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Books "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is Immortal" and "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Will Always Be With Us" were issued by the Workers' Party of Korea Publishing House.

The books introduce mourning ceremonies held by the state during the mourning period of last year, words of Korean people expressing their sorrow over his death, measures taken by Koreans in South and overseas and different countries, messages of condolence sent by foreign party, state and government leaders and other figures of different strata and their words over his death and the firm will and confidence of the Korean people who pledged to inherit and accomplish the cause of President Kim Il-song by changing sorrow into strength and courage.

Contained in the books "To the Last Moment of His Life", "The Hope of the Fatherly Leader", "The Sky and the Earth Are Crying", "Upholding His Behests" and others published by the Kum Song Youth Publishing House are the facts that President Kim Il-song energetically waged activities for the victory of the socialist cause, strengthening and prosperity of the country and the nation and happiness of the people to the last moment of his life.

The working people's organizations publishing house issued books "Looking Up to the Immortal Fatherly Leader" and "Great Praise and Immortal Exploits".

They are about boundless loyalty and noble spiritual and moral traits highly displayed by the Korean people after the death of President Kim Il-song. They say the president indicated tasks for the entire party and people of Korea to uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in one mind with loyalty and filial piety.

The agricultural publishing house issued "In the Van of the Agricultural Front," (4) a book showing the leadership traits and noble virtues of President Kim Il-song who worked out the strategy of socialist agriculture on a higher level and wisely led it with his outstanding wisdom.

Published were many other books including the collection of literary works "Fidelity of Soldiers", the collection of real stories of mourning "The Sun Will Be

Immortal" and the collection of memorial works "He Is Immortal."

Kim Il-song's Activities Depicted in Museums

SK0707105495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 7 (KCNA) — The revolutionary museums throughout the country have been replenished with new relics and materials showing the great leader President Kim Il-song who conducted energetic activities to the last moment of his life.

Exhibited in the recently-opened rooms are materials impressively showing the glorious revolutionary history of President Kim Il-song, who worked hard to the last moment of his life for the party, revolution, fatherland and people.

On show in the museum of the Ministry of Culture and Art are pictures showing tireless efforts of the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song, who built and developed socialist national culture with unusual wisdom and energetic leadership, and documents signed by him.

Especially, his recorded voices singing "Nostalgia" and giving instructions to uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty make all the people determined to thoroughly carry out his behests more valuable than their lives.

Also exhibited in the museums are revolutionary relics and materials showing the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's strong sense of communist morality and obligation.

Epic Poem Published on Kim's Death Anniversary

SK1007151595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 10 (KCNA) — "Comrade Kim Il-song, Our Eternal Leader", an epic published on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il- song, is deeply impressing the Korean people.

It represents what all the Korean people wanted to say from the bottom of their hearts while spending the last one year after the death of the great leader in tears with longing for him and pledges as well as what they feel in their hearts boiling like a lava. It is, indeed, a masterpiece which will be handed down to posterity together with the great times.

Its writer is poet Kim Man-yong of the Central Committee of the Korean Writers Union.

He is now in thirties. He wrote many poems already in the days when he worked as a smelter at the Chollima Steel Complex.

After he was involved in a literary circle of the complex, he wrote and published scores of poems including lyrics "People of Kangson" and "I Will Perform Exploits".

His poems were loved by young people very much.

It was after he graduated from the Writers Training Centre of Kim Hyong-chik University of Education that he has found himself among poets. Since then has he written many poems.

Upon hearing the unexpected news of the sudden death of the great President Kim Il-song in July last year, he created "O, Our Leader", "The Leader Will Always Be With Us" and other poems.

He devoted all his creative enthusiasm and talent to the creation of an epic which sings of the people's great father, who performed great exploits for the country and the people in his lifetime.

He wrote each line of the poem: In his mind he was treading the steps of the Kumsusan Memorial Palace with solemn feelings and travelling all places of the country which President Kim Il-song had visited for on-the-spot guidance. And he wrote the poem line by line, looking up to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader who is just the same as President Kim Il-song.

All his fellow poets joined him in his creative activities, rendering disinterested assistance to him.

The epic "Comrade Kim Il-song, Our Eternal Leader", a masterpiece of the times, is not only a product of creative enthusiasm of a poet but also an eruption of deep reverence of all the Korean people for President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il and ardent feelings of the time which is pulsating with loyalty and singleheartedness.

Some time ago, respected Comrade Kim Chong-il read the poem, highly estimated it and bestowed deep glory and honor upon the poet.

Stamps Issued Marking Kim's Death Anniversary

SK0607110295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of the DPRK has issued new stamps and envelope on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

A sheetlet carries a picture of President Kim Il-song delivering an important speech for the agricultural development of African countries.

Three sheets have pictures of the president meeting with Zimbabwean President Robert G. Mugabe, being with His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia, talking with Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh, receiving Ernesto Che Guevara, head of the revolutionary government economic delegation of the Republic of Cuba, being awarded the title of honorary doctor of the Algiers University and responding to the cheering people at a Pyongyang mass meeting held to welcome Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

With letters "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will always be with us", the stamps well show that President Kim Il-song, who performed immortal exploits for the independence of the world, will be alive in the hearts of the world people for all ages.

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications also issued an envelope with Kimilsongia, an immortal flower, against the background of the Tower of the Chuche Idea.

Nigerian Society Hangs Kim Il-song Portrait

SK0607045995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0441 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — A portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song was hung on a wall of the office of the Sun Society of Nigeria on June 24 with a due ceremony on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

J. O. Mama, chief of the society and king of Umozzi community, addressed the ceremony.

He said the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's portrait hung on a wall of the office of the Sun Society shows the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's deep trust in all the members of the society, Umozzi community and other Nigerian people.

We will always have Comrade Kim Il-song's portrait with respect and believe in and follow him as the sun, he said.

He noted that the August name and exploits of the great Comrade Kim Il-song will remain shining for all ages with history and humankind will revere him as the eternal sun.

The revolutionary cause pioneered by President Kim Il-song is being carried forward successfully by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of the Korean people, he emphasized.

More Foreign Death Anniversary Services Reported

SK0807153395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1510 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — Memorial services were held in different countries on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il- song.

A memorial meeting was held at the central square of Huacho city, Huaura region of Peru; a joint memorial service at the building of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru [LRUP] under the cosponsorship of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland) and the National Executive Committee of the LRUP and memorial services by the Russian Free Patriotic Party for "Revival," in Antananarivo of Madagascar, in Moscow under the cosponsorship of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Association of Koreans (Unity) and by the "peace and today" committee and the "intellect-service" scientific and technological complex of Russia.

The participants in the memorial services observed a moment's silence in memory of President Kim Il-song.

The speakers at the memorial meeting held at the central square in Huacho city, Huaura region of Peru, highly estimated the revolutionary history and undying revolutionary exploits of President Kim Il-song.

They expressed their firm belief that the Korean people would accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche under the wise guidance of the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il.

Speaking at the joint memorial service, Rolando Brena Pantoja, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland), said that respected Comrade Kim Il-song was the founder of the immortal chuche idea and socialism centred on people and a great leader of the socialist and communist movement.

Although Comrade Kim Il-song passed away, his august name and revolutionary exploits will shine for all ages, the speaker added.

Pavlo, member of the Executive Committee of the Russian Free Patriotic Party for "Revival", pointed out that the dignity, honor and all victories of Korea are linked with the august name of Comrade Kim Il-song. He was the greatest statesman in our times, the speaker stressed.

Former Soviet Ambassador to Korea Aleksandr Kapto noted that Comrade Kim Il-song was the only great statesman in the world. He further said:

Korea is making a powerful advance toward socialism even under the present situation in which socialism has suffered setbacks in different countries. This is a great fruition of an independent policy of Comrade Kim Il-song.

Telegrams or letters to Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted at the memorial services.

Meanwhile, a lecture was given on the subject "The great leader President Kim Il-song is always with us" and a DPRK film show and book and photo exhibition were held in Pakistan on the first death anniversary of President Kim Il-song.

Party Leaders Visit Embassies on Anniversary

SK0907091695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 9 (KCNA) — On the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song, General Secretary Talal Hafun Ala Mai and members of the leadership of the People's Unity Party (Unionist) of Jordan, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Czechy-Morava Communist Party Miroslav Grevenicek, National Chairman of the Socialist Progressive Party of Madagascar Rakotomandimby Selestine, and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau and member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Hu Jintao and other officials concerned visited the Korean Embassies in their countries to lay floral baskets and bouquets under the portraits of President Kim Il-song.

Hu Jintao said Comrade Kim Il-song was the great leader of the Korean people as well as a close friend of the Chinese people. He heartily wished the Korean people would continue making advance in all sectors, carrying forward the lifetime intention of President Kim Il-song under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Miroslav Grevenicek stressed the feats performed by Comrade Kim Il-song for the strengthening and development of the international communist movement would be immortal.

Talal Hafun Ala Mai said President Kim Il-song was the greatest of great men and the people would remember the chuche idea founded by him and his exploits.

Rakotomandimby Selestine wished the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people success in their efforts for socialist construction and national reunification under the wise guidance of the most respected great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Korean People's 'Yearning' for Kim Il-song Noted

SK0807153595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1519 GMT 8 Jul 95

["One Year of Longing and Resolution" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA) — Today is the 1st anniversary of the unexpected death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The yearning of the Korean people for the president is ever growing.

Over the past one year the people have shed bitter tears, sorely missing the president, the sun of the nation, before his statues in all parts of the country, at farms and factories visited by him and machines seen by him.

Mansu Hill in Pyongyang where his statue is standing has been inundated by people day and night.

"I am really reluctant to leave here. When I stand here, it seems to me as if the fatherly leader is with me. So, I want to stay here for all days," said Yi Ki-ban, teacher of Kim Il-song University, before the statue of the president.

This is an expression of all other people's feelings.

Peoples in the capital meet daybreak on Mansu Hill, recollecting love and trust the president bestowed on them and vowing to carry out his behests without fail. Since his death some 37.26 million people have called at the statue on Mansu Hill.

The number of those who have visited President Kim Il-song's statues in the provincial seats is ever increasing to reach hundreds of millions.

The monument to the victorious battle of Pochonbo with the president's statue at the fore, which was erected on Kwaegungjong Hill in Hyesan city, seat of Yanggang Province, has been visited by an endless stream of people with deep reverence and firm pledges.

"Fatherly leader, we will take the van of the country in carrying out your behests in the revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu as befits the working class living in glorious province associated with your brilliant revolutionary history, the province where the time- honored native home of respected General Kim Chong-il is situated."

"I will live like a daughter of Mt. Paektu. I will devote myself to making all the people live and struggle in the

Paektu revolutionary spirit as the fatherly leader hoped in his lifetime."

This is the feelings of not only the miners of the Hyesan youth mine and Yi Chong-yon, a merited lecturer of the Yanggang provincial "Museum of Revolutionary Activities of Comrade Kim Il-song" but all the people of the province, who have kept their pledges they made before the bier of the leader.

"Fatherly leader, we have made a good job today, too. Well molten iron is pouring out like a waterfall. Though we have been enveloped in bitter grief, we have lived with courage because we have respected general Kim Chong-il," said Hwang Yong-chun, a labour hero and a merited smelter of the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex, before the statue of President Kim Il-song in the iron city of Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province.

"I will faithfully work today, too, true to the behests of the fatherly leader."

"Can I really stand with pride before the president?"

This is what all the people are thinking, calling at the statue of President Kim Il-song.

Peoples are calling at the statues of the president day and night in the hope of letting him know of what they think and what they did.

Indeed, President Kim Il-song, who had always been among the people in his lifetime, warmly loving them, is still with them.

NDFSK on Decision To Preserve Kim Il-song

SK1107100695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 11 (KCNA) — The members of the Patriotic Society for Reunification recently held an emergency meeting in Chunchon, South Korea, and welcomed and supported the decision on preserving the great leader President Kim Il-song in state.

The Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation quoted the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea [NDFSK] as saying this in its information.

At the meeting, Kim Chi-hun said: "Our leader Kim Il-song enjoyed absolute authority and performed immortal exploits for the time and the nation. He is the great sun of all people. We must hold him in high esteem for all ages."

"I think the North's decision on preserving the leader Kim Il- song, who is the sun as his name means, in state in 'Kumsusan Memorial Palace' as an absolutely just measure which reflects the people's minds," he added.

The members of the society pledged to open the road to the North on the 50th anniversary of the August 15 liberation and visit the holy land of "Kumsusan Memorial Palace" in Pyongyang so that they can see the leader Kim Il-song preserved in state and pay a deep reverence to him.

Youth Society Hails Decision To Preserve Kim

SK0607102595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — Members of the patriotic youth society for reunification active in Taejon warmly hailed the decision to preserve the great leader President Kim Il-song in the form of eternal life, according to Seoul- based radio Voice of National Salvation quoting the information of the South Chungchong Provincial Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea.

Chairman Kim Nam-sik said at a gathering:

The leader Kim Il-song said in his lifetime that national reunification was the greatest gift he could present to the fellow countrymen and made tireless efforts for it. National reunification was the greatest wish, highest morality and indomitable will of the leader.

The chairman stressed that all of them should realise reunification in the 90s at any cost, bearing in mind the behests of the leader Kim Il-song for reunification with loyalty and filial piety and unite to pave the way to national reunification with the grand reunification festival marking the August 15 liberation.

The chairman set forth in detail a guide to propaganda activity, saying it is the noble mission of the vanguards of the revolutionary movement in the South and the duty of history and the times to activate information work to acquire the peerless personality of the leader Kim Il-song and defend his absolute authority on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

The members of the society hardened their determination to bravely pave the patriotic road of reunification with indomitable will and be the first to visit the bier of the great leader Kim Il- song at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang and pray for the repose of his soul on the day of reunification.

Uzbek Veterans Support Decision To Preserve Kim

*SK0507215095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1520 GMT 5 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA) — Hwang Song-pok, chairman of the Korean War Veterans Committee in Uzbekistan, released a statement in support of the decision on preserving the great leader President Kim Il-song in the form of eternal life.

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song's was a life devoted to the independence of the country and the prosperity and happiness of the nation and he was the father of the Kim Il-song nation, he said, and continued:

The decision was an important measure fully reflecting the will of the Koreans in the North, South and overseas including the war veterans.

He stressed that the Korean war veterans in Uzbekistan will make efforts to keep the feats of the great president shining for all ages and have him preserved in the form of eternal life. "We will devotedly uphold Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il, who is advancing under the banner of Kimilsongism, with the pride of being members of the Kim Il-song nation", he added.

ROK Magazine Prints Kim Chong-il's Photograph

*SK0607103995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1026 GMT 6 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — A photograph of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was printed by the South Korean monthly magazine INSIDE WORLD in its May issue.

It printed a color photograph of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, who is responding to columns of the parade celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army and edited an article and photographs introducing the Pyongyang International Festival of Sports and Culture for Peace under the title "World Attention on Pyongyang".

Remaining 'Faithful' to Kim Chong-il Stressed

*SK1107044695 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0438 GMT 11 Jul 95*

["MINJU CHOSON Calls For Loyalty to Leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 11 (KCNA) — MINJU CHOSON today carries an editorial titled "Let Us Vigorously Advance Under the Leadership of the Great Comrade Kim Chong-il, True to Behests of the Fatherly Leader."

Implementing to the letter the behests of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a noble undertaking for realising his far-reaching intentions and keeping his undying feats shining for all ages and a worthwhile work for making our country, our homeland more prosperous and winning the final victory of the socialist cause, the editorial says, and continues:

What is most important for our officials and working people in carrying out his behests is to remain faithful to the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It is an earnest behest the fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave all of us to hold Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem, faithful to his leadership.

We must work hard for the final accomplishment of the chuche revolutionary cause under the leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, deeply cherishing the great honor and fortune in having him at the head of our party and revolution.

The editorial quotes Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"In order to defend our socialism centred on the popular masses and successfully accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, the whole party and all the people must remain faithful to the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il. Herein lies a definite guarantee for the continuity and accomplishment of the socialist cause."

The editorial goes on:

Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership is the invincible banner of the Korean revolution and is vital to the completion of the socialist cause.

We must be loyal to the leadership of respected General Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander, holding him in great esteem forever, with the firm belief that Comrade Kim Il-song is precisely Comrade Kim Chong-il and vice versa.

It is important in remaining faithful to the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il to further cement the single-hearted unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks.

All the officials and working people must steadfastly defend him, loyally upholding him as the centre of the unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks, as the first and second generations of our revolution triumphantly advanced the revolution and construction with Comrade Kim Il-song in the centre of leadership and unity.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Soldiers, Families

*SK0507044295 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0432 GMT 5 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], sent thanks to soldiers and officers' families of the Kang Se-nok, Pak Pong-hoe and Han Yong-suk Units of the KPA for their high display of the traditional trait of Army-people unity.

They actively helped factories and rural communities and took warm care of the families of the fallen and families of those killed by the enemy, dependents of the People's Army servicemen and disabled soldiers in the areas where the units are stationed.

Comrade Kim Chong-il thanked the soldiers of the Kim Chi-tok Unit of the Korean People's Security Forces for their achievements in the construction of Kumnung Tunnel No.2 in Pyongyang.

Koreans in Japan Study Kim Chong-il's Letter

SK0607050295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, July 4 (KNS-KCNA) [dateline as received] — The Association of Korean Journalists and Publishers in Japan under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) met on June 30 to study the historical letter of the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il "On Developing the Movement of Koreans in Japan Onto a New Higher Stage".

Speakers proved the originality, validity, great attraction and vitality of the idea and theory on the chuche-based movement of overseas Koreans expounded in the letter and called for implanting the world outlook of chuche and patriotic spirit in the hearts of officials, compatriots and the rising generation.

They laid stress on devoting all energies and wisdom to expanding the effectiveness of CHOSON SINBO and all other news media of Chongnyon.

Overseas Koreans Cited on Kim Chong-il's Letter

SK0507153395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA) — Vice-chairman of the International Korean Association (Unity) Chu Yong-il and chief of the organization of the Koreans in Sakhalin Chae Chong-man respectively released statements, concerning the historic letter sent by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongyon) and Koreans in Japan on the occasion of the 40th formation anniversary of Chongyon.

Chu Yong-il said that Comrade Kim Chong-il's letter is an earnest teaching not only for Koreans in Japan but for the Korean residents in other countries and is an important guideline in all activities of the overseas Koreans' organizations.

He said that he will do his best to have the activities of the association conducted as intended and wished by General Kim Chong-il, with his letter as the guideline.

Chae Chong-man said that he is determined to direct all efforts to developing his organization, having the historic letter of Comrade Kim Chong-il as the guideline. And he vowed to fully ensure the leadership of respected General Kim Chong-il in the organization to further develop it as a chuche-type organization of overseas Koreans, which is infinitely faithful to the general, united in one mind.

Kim Chong-il's 'Famous Work' Studied Abroad

SK0607054695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA) — The famous work of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for the Accomplishment of the Socialist Cause" has been widely disseminated and studied in different countries.

A seminar on the work was held under the sponsorship of the Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Comrade Kim Il-song in South Ruimveldt Gardens, Guyana, on June 24.

Speakers emphasized that the work of Comrade Kim Chong-il serves as a guideline clearly indicating the way for the progressive political parties and people of the world to defend the socialist cause at present time.

A reading session took place in the society for the study of Kim Chong-il's works of Zimbabwe on June 26, where Chairman William Makaya Kora made a speech.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il published the famous work to deal a heavy blow at the imperialists and renegades vociferating about "the end of socialism", the chairman said.

He noted that Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader of the present era of independence, who is wisely leading the socialist cause with outstanding ideological and theoretical activities, and that the world revolutionary people will vigorously struggle to rebuild socialism with his great idea and theories as a powerful weapon.

A lecture meeting, an explanatory meeting and a reading session were held respectively in the Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea of the Technical College in Lagos State of Nigeria, the Cultural Centre in Egypt and the Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea of teachers of the Chambogo Polytechnical College of Uganda.

Peru, Zambia Detail Kim's Work

SK0507043395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's famous work "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for the Accomplishment of the Socialist Cause" was reported by foreign media.

The Zambian paper ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL June 29, under the title "Ideological Work and Socialism", printed the preface and first part of the work with a portrait of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The detailed gist of the work was reported by a Tanzanian radio on June 26 and the Peruvian radios Star and Exito on June 28.

'Luxury Houses' Built for Foreign Entrepreneurs

SK1007105095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Najin-Sonbong, July 10 (KCNA) — Luxury houses to be leased out to foreign entrepreneurs are being constructed in the Najin-Sonbong Free Economic and Trade Zone of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The two-storied houses are diverse in the form. The average plottage of each house is 500-700 square metres and its total floor space 250-300 square metres.

A kitchen, a dining room and a parlour are on the first floor and bedrooms are on the second floor. There are 3-4 housekeeping rooms and the floor space of the parlour is 25 square metres.

The house is heated with electricity and hot water, and its interior will be furnished on the highest level.

The plottage of the garden is 450 square metres. The house is installed with a garage with a floor space of 21 square metres.

The sight of the clean and blue sea in front of the house and thick forests of pine and pine-nut trees behind it are very favourable for health and life.

The quality of drinking water is very high. The life expectancy of people drinking this water is over 90 years.

Many foreign entrepreneurs have already applied for the lease of houses.

The zone authorities plan to meet the demand of foreign entrepreneurs in case they ask for the lease of luxury houses in various forms built on the desired places.

South Korea

Editorial Warns Against Downgraded KEDO Role

SK1107054695 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 11 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Problems Concerning the 'Central Role'?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We regret hearing that ROK-U.S. cooperation, with regard to the construction of light-water reactors in North Korea, is not going well. If implementation of the North Korea-U.S. agreement, which was reached after considerable difficulty, is delayed or in a crisis situation, it is most likely to become the butt of jokes in the international community. The differences in view on some pending issues between the ROK and the United States may give rise to such a possibility.

The ROK and the United States have different views on dispatching a site survey team. The construction of light-water reactors in North Korea is a big project that will cost over four trillion won, and safety is the most important concern in this project. Selection of a project site is the first leg of this project, and shoddy work may give rise to problems throughout the project. It has recently been learned that the United States has been trying to minimize the ROK's participation in the site survey team or to exclude the ROK from the team. If this is true, it is truly a serious problem.

The executive director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO] recently visited Seoul and discussed the dispatch of a survey team with pertinent ROK officials. It has been learned that the discussion proceeded unfavorably for the ROK. That is, the United States proposed that a U.S. corporation participate in the site survey under contract with KEDO and that ROK and Japanese corporations be allowed partial roles. The ROK side apparently was not in serious opposition to the U.S. plan, since the inspection team would only be sent to North Korea once. This U.S. position, however, is likely to downgrade the ROK's "central role."

The ROK and the United States also differ on the issue of the program coordinator. The two countries agree on selecting Bechtel of the United States as program coordinator. However, they have significantly different views on its role and activities. The United States feels that the sides should select a program coordinator at an early date and have it participate in the project from the start, while the ROK feels that the program coordinator should participate when actual construction work begins. The sides also have different views on the operation of the KEDO Secretariat and Executive Committee.

The disharmony which the ROK and the United States are showing from the beginning does not look good and may endanger the construction of the light-water reactors. The ROK Government must make thorough preparations to ensure that our "central role" will not end as a merely superficial one. The United States, too, must seriously ponder what steps it should take to not make the mistake of turning the North Korea-U.S. agreement into nothing.

Article Assesses DPRK Leadership Lineup

SK1107101495 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Jul 95 p 5

[Article by Kim In-ku: "Personnel Connections Within the North Korean Party, Government, and Army"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past year since Kim Il-song passed away, there have been no personnel changes in the North Korean party, government, or Army. The post of the People's Armed Forces minister has remained vacant for the more than four months since O Chin-u died on 25 February. So far, no successor to his post has been appointed.

Also, there were no significant changes in the lineup of Funeral Committee members upon the death of Kim Il-song and O Chin-u, or in the ranks of high-level officials that appeared on the rostrum for major functions, including the memorial service held on 7 July to mark the first anniversary of Kim Il-song's death. [sentence as published] The rank of members and alternate members of the party Political Bureau remain unchanged. These figures are Premier Kang Song-san; Vice Presidents Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-chu, and Kim Pyong-sik; Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam; Chief of General Staff [of the KPA] Choe Kwang; and party secretaries Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho, and Han Song-yong.

Judging from his delay in officially succeeding to the posts of the party general secretary and state president, it appears that Kim Chong-il feels that the time has not yet come to disclose his true intentions. Also, he now appears to be focused on implementing Kim Il-song's "behest." Some point out that there have been no unusual signs in North Korea because the present power structure was put together by Kim Chong-il.

Whether this assessment is true or not, Kim Chong-il has led the party, government, and Army without disturbance for over a year in his position as chairman of the National Defense Commission and supreme commander of the Army.

Throughout the year, Kim Yong-sun has fortified his position as an influential person by being the most conspicuous in carrying out activities. Opening the Pyongyang festival, he attempted to revitalize the stagnant mood in North Korea caused by the death of Kim Il-song. Also, he agreed to resume the suspended North Korean-Japanese talks on establishing diplomatic relations with the Japanese coalition ruling parties. He is the person who settled the rice issue. The activities of Chon Kum-chol and Yi Chong-hyok, who were in charge of the issue, were conspicuous.

Kang Sok-chu, first vice foreign minister, who was charged with negotiating with the United States, Vice Minister Kim Kye-kwan, and Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee, are regarded as key figures of the up-and-coming generation who will lead North Korea's diplomacy.

We can guess Kim Chong-il's personnel management style by reviewing the results of North Korea's foreign policy over the past year and by studying the characteristics and competence of the working-level officials involved in this policy. All officials involved in foreign policy over the past year are assessed to be neat, reasonable, and excellent in pushing ahead with their work and possess good negotiating abilities.

It is noticeable that the second generation of the revolution has risen rapidly in the North Korean military. These second-generation figures who occupy core military positions accompany Kim Chong-il in his military activities and have come to the fore one by one. They are General Yi Ha-il, head of the party's Military Department; General Kim Myong-kuk; General Won Ung-hui; Colonel General Kim Ha- kyu; and Colonel General Pak Chae-kyong. General Yi Pong-won, who is between the first and second generations of the revolution, also accompanied Kim Chong-il during his activities over the past year. Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin, vice minister of People's Armed Forces, has paved his way by delivering reports at various military events. Kim is learned to have been in overall charge of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces even while O Chin-u was alive.

The advance of the second generation of the revolution is in harmony with the young supreme commander of the Army, Kim Chong-il. However, a large military reshuffle is not expected. It is expected that a gradual generational change will occur in light of the mixed "old-middle-young" structure, a typical power structure for North Korea. This prediction is based on the results of the March by-elections of the Military Commission members of the party Central Committee.

Among party officials, Kye Ung-tae, Choe Tae-pok, Kim Ki-nam, and Kim Kuk-tae are still regarded as influential men close to Kim Chong-il. They are in charge, respectively, of the administrative (security-oriented), social, propaganda, and ideological sectors—the most important core portions of North Korea's internal ruling system. In particular, Kye Ung-tae delivered reports at various events, such as at a central report meeting on Kim Chong-il's birthday in February, a commemorative report meeting on the 20th anniversary of the publication of Kim Chong-il's "2 August Work," and a commemorative report meeting on the 41st anniversary of "victory in the war," thus enabling people to surmise his position.

It is also noticeable that the activities of Vice President Kim Yong-chu, Kim Il-song's brother, are not observable. It seems Kim Yong-chu is reluctant to show himself in public because he recognizes he is the only person who might generate a power conflict with Kim Chong-il.

In conclusion, there have been no changes inside the core portion of North Korea's power structure since Kim Il-song's death, though working-level officials in the foreign policy sector are coming to the fore as the improvement in foreign relations and economic rehabilitation have emerged as the most urgent issues. In the military, the second-generation figures of the revolution are naturally and rapidly advancing.

North Returns Wet, 'Deteriorated' Rice

SK1107020495 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 11 Jul 95 p 31

[FBIS Translated Text] Some of the rice for North Korea, including some of the 3,448 tonnes shipped on Eastern Venture, was found deteriorated during unloading at Chongjin Port in North Korea and was returned.

According to Ulsan Marine Port Administration on 10 July, the Eastern Venture of Taebo Shipping Company left Pusan on 4 July and began unloading rice at Chongjin Port on 6 July. North Korean officials found that 4.16 tonnes (104 sacks of 40-kg package) of the total 3,500 tonnes of rice was wet and deteriorated, and returned the rice by the same ship.

North Earns 500 Million Yen From Festival

SK1107050195 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 11 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 11 July that North Korea recorded about 500 million yen (about 4.5 billion won) in net profits from the Pyongyang Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace held for three days beginning 28 April.

Speaking anonymously, a government source said: "The information was recently obtained from a Japanese official."

Daewoo Technicians' Visit to North Previewed

SK1107051695 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 11 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Technicians' Visit to North Korea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Thirteen technicians from Daewoo business group, which is participating in the Nampo Industrial Complex cooperation project, will soon visit North Korea. They will comprise the first South Korean group to make a long-term visit to North Korea under legitimate circumstances. They will stay in North Korea for two months to a year to provide technical guidance in installing machinery and supervising production processes. Having obtained both the approval of the National Unification Board and an invitation from North Korea, their path is clear but for a few working details.

The visit to North Korea by Daewoo technicians is significant not only because it is the first long-term visit to North Korea by a South Korean group, but also because it signals a new beginning in North-South economic cooperation, which has entered a new phase. Their visit is particularly attracting the interest of the ROK people. North-South economic cooperation has merely included specialty transactions and processing trade, but the Nampo Industrial Complex cooperation project is a genuine investment project that includes installation and operation of machinery, technical guidance, and quality assurance. The technicians' visit to North Korea will lay the groundwork for Daewoo's Nampo project and have a decisive effect on the pace at which ROK companies venture into the Najin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone.

The timing may not be perfect for Daewoo to enter Nampo, but, fortunately, the dark clouds have cleared. Since Na Ung-pae assumed the post of deputy prime minister in charge of unification, the ROK Government has maintained the principle that economic cooperation should continue despite political difficulties in North-South relations. As shown in the light-water reactors talks and rice negotiations, North Korea is in the process of seeking breakthroughs by adopting pragmatic policies. Daewoo technicians are stepping into North Korea at a time when both South and North Korea are trying to create an atmosphere for expanded economic cooperation. Their trip will mark a new milestone in North-South economic cooperation.

The ROK people hope their visit will not only expand economic cooperation, but also widen the road of North-South exchanges, including the reunion of separated families. The technicians may be concerned about disappointing the people by becoming accidentally involved in incidents that would mar North-South relations. All we ask is that they do their best and show an earnest and responsible attitude to North Korean compatriots. Economic cooperation can continue only when it is mutually beneficial to the South and the North. The technicians visiting North Korea should not misunderstand economic cooperation as aid to North Korea.

Seoul Welcomes Release of Aung San Suu Kyi

*SK1107073895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0729 GMT 11 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — The South Korean Government Tuesday welcomed the release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar (formerly Burma) who has been under house arrest for the past six years, hoping that the release could help the democratization and economic development of Myanmar.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yu Kwang-sok expressed his hope that the freeing of Aung San Suu Kyi will serve to enhance friendly relations between South Korea and Myanmar.

Defense Industry Panel With Malaysia Forming

*SK0807055095 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 8 Jul 95 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Korea and Malaysia will form a joint defense industry cooperation committee in Kuala Lumpur July 10-15 for talks on ways to further improve cooperation in defense technology and other fields, the Defense Ministry said yesterday.

Delegates from the two countries are expected to discuss such issues as Seoul's technical and other assistance to the assembly production of Korean armored personnel carriers in Malaysia, a ministry official said.

Since 1993, South Korea has exported 111 armed personnel carriers to Malaysia, which plans to buy Korean-made K-1 tanks.

Attache in New Zealand Denies Forgery Charges

*SK1107075095 Seoul YONHAP in English
0724 GMT 11 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — A former administrative attache at the South Korean Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand, allegedly involved in a forged document case insisted Tuesday that he is not responsible for altering the directive issued by the Foreign Ministry that requested a survey of local autonomous systems in advanced countries.

"I never changed the document in question and the reason why I cannot return to South Korea is that the government wants to make me a scapegoat," said Choe Sung-chin who telephoned the press corps of the Foreign Ministry.

"I will come back to South Korea after the whole truth is revealed," said Choe. "If I return home (now), I will fall victim to the government's plot and will become a criminal."

"It's not true that the Foreign Ministry cannot change the original cables it sends to its overseas missions (for technical reasons)," insisted Choe. "The Foreign Ministry can completely forge any document, including the one in question."

The former administrative attache at the South Korean Embassy to New Zealand also said that he regretted that the opposition Democratic Party (DP) did not reveal the document until June, although he sent it to the opposition party on March 25 through his wife.

"I did not mean to give an advantage to a political party or a disadvantage to another party," insisted Choe. "I did it to uphold justice and make President Kim Yong-sam keep his word (on the June local elections)."

Countering the Foreign Ministry's allegation that he had previously forged an official document in 1987, Choe insisted that he was a victim of the No Tae-u government's political maneuvering.

Introducing himself as the chairman of a national association of employees dismissed in the middle of pro-democracy movements in 1987, he claimed that a security agent in charge of him at that time offered to help him emigrate to Australia and arranged the move because he, as the chairman of a dissident group, could influence, to a certain degree, the result of the presidential elections.

"Days after the security agent made the proposal, I was taken to a police station where I found a diploma of the Seoul National University Engineering College attached to a packet of documents necessary for my emigration to Australia," he said.

"They arrested me on charges of forging an official document but the Foreign Ministry knows all about that," insisted Choe who denounced the Foreign Ministry for making an issue of the 1987 incident.

On the allegations that he took a passport from a Korean resident in New Zealand and that he stole travel certificates from the South Korean embassy, Choe insisted that those charges were proved untrue when he was taken to a police station in New Zealand for a 14-hour interrogation.

He also faxed a statement denouncing the Foreign Ministry for charging him in the document forgery case.

Choe continues to insist that Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Yi Chae-chun coaxed him to say that former opposition party President Kim Tae-chung told him to leak and fabricate the document, promising him a promotion to a special government position.

Yi was also quoted by Choe as having coaxed him into saying that he had been exploited by the opposition Democratic Party.

Choe said that he is receiving emergency benefits from the New Zealand Government as a political refugee, adding that he needs the allowance because he ran out of money.

He, however, does not expect to stay in New Zealand for more than a few months, hoping to return to South Korea when the truth about the document forgery case comes out.

Team Off To Investigate Madrid Property Scam

*SK1107074995 Seoul YONHAP in English
0731 GMT 11 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 11 (YONHAP) — A joint inspection team comprised of officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Board of Audit and Inspections (BAI) will fly to Madrid, Spain, Wednesday to conduct an investigation into the allegation that the South Korean embassy in Madrid purchased land at over double the property's value, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yu Kwang-sok said Tuesday.

The ministry's own special inspection team has already been investigating former ministry officials involved in the land purchase scam, he said.

The joint inspection team will stay in Madrid for about one week, Yu said.

President's Brother-in-Law Gets Prison Sentence

*SK0807055595 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 8 Jul 95 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A brother-in-law of President Kim Yong-sam, who had been indicted for influence-peddling, was sentenced to a one-year prison term and was fined 70 million won (some $87,000) yesterday.

The Seoul District Criminal Court yesterday sentenced Son Song-hun, 61, and three others involved in the case; Pak Won-ung, 50, to 10 months' imprisonment with a two-year suspension of execution and a 40-million-won fine, Pak Yun-sok, 57, to one-and-a-half years in prison and a 230-million-won fine, and So Yun-tae, 58, to 10 months in jail and a 30-million-won fine.

Prosecution To Question Former Finance Minister

*SK0907073995 Seoul YONHAP in English
0719 GMT 9 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 9 (YONHAP) — The central investigation department of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office plans to summon and investigate former Finance Minister Yi Yong-man some time this week on suspicion of accepting bribes from former president of Dong Hwa Bank An Yong-mo.

Investigators said on Sunday that the prosecution will make a decision on how and when it will investigate Yi after getting on Monday a notification of the outcome of his medical testing from the Seoul National University's Hospital, where the former finance minister is now under treatment.

Meanwhile, Yi had gone out of the country in March 1993 while being secretly investigated on charges of taking 730 billion won in bribes in relation to a personnel change from An, and an indictment against him has been suspended before he returned home on July 1.

President To Resolutely Pursue Change, Reform

*SK0807042695 Seoul YONHAP in English
0330 GMT 8 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam declared Saturday he would pursue change and reform as persistently and resolutely as he did when he took office in early 1993.

Presiding over a meeting of his senior secretaries, the chief executive said there was no change in his determination at the time of his inauguration "to save the nation through change and reform," according to Presidential Spokesman Yun Yo-chun.

Saying when the president is unstable in a crisis, the nation will be in confusion, Kim expressed a firm resolution to do his best to carry out his constitutional responsibilities as the head of state, living up to his unswerving principle of serving the nation.

"In late August, I'll be at the midpoint of my tenure, and I'll do my best to engage in my responsibilities for the people with a new resolution as if I start my new tenure," Yun quoted the president as saying.

Attributing the Sampoong department store's collapse to corruption and irregularities involving the bureaucracy, Kim said he would stamp out these social evils with all his power, with the same resolve he showed when he first took office.

He then asked the senior secretaries to carry out their jobs with a new resolution to serve the people, saying he would continue the globalization policy as avidly as before to increase the international competitiveness of the nation.

Legislators Attack Government's Economic Policy

SK1107030595 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — Both government and opposition lawmakers focused on problems with Kim Yong-sam's economic policies in the parliamentary interpellation session held Tuesday morning.

Rep. Pak Sok-mu (DP) [Democratic Party] demanded the resignation of Finance and Economy Minister Hong Chae-hyong and senior presidential economic secretary Han I-hon, calling President Kim's economic policy a failure, while Rep. Choe Ton-ung called for measures to correct "the faulty framework of the economy."

Rep. Kim Tu-sop (DLP) [Democratic Liberal Party] accused the government of shipping rice to North Korea "without first consulting farmers or considering the national consensus," and Rep. Chong Tae- yong (ULD) [United Liberal Democrats] charged that President Kim's proposal that if necessary the government would import rice to help North Korea solve its food shortages, would further harm the 6 million farmers who have already suffered from the rice market opening.

Rep. Yu Sung-kyu (DLP) called for legislation supporting the small and medium-sized industries' efforts to elevate its technical level and thus increase its international competitiveness. He also proposed that the government supply 4 million tons out of the 8.6 million tons of coal in stock to help the sagging coal industry, while Rep. Kim Chan-tu (DLP) demanded special financial support for small and medium-sized firms producing intermediate products and capital goods as a means of narrowing the ever-widening trade deficit with Japan, citing the increasing imports of these products from Japan as a major cause of the deficit.

But Rep. Chong Tae-yong blamed the government's "untimely" implementation of the real-name system in financial transactions for the increasing number of small firm failures, demanding special measures to revitalize the small and medium-sized industries.

Reps. Pak Tae-yong and Han Hwa-kap, both DP members, called for balanced land development and for the administration to transfer management control of seaports and airports to local governments.

Yi Ki-taek Comments on DP's Internal Crisis

SK1107051895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0450 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — Rep. Yi Ki-taek, president of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP), said that he will not resign as party president or persuade Kim Tae-chung, former opposition leader, not to create a new party.

Meeting reporters at his home at Pukahyon-tong, Seoul, Yi also stated he will not leave the party.

Responding to queries about whether he has any intention of meeting Kim Tae-chung to soothe the internal crisis and prevent a division of the party, he said, "It seems to be too late."

Kim Tae-chung, currently chairman of the Peace Foundation for the Asia-Pacific Region, met with his DP followers Monday night at a downtown Seoul hotel to discuss organizing a new party.

Regarding the Tonggyo-tong's statement that it would not seek to create a new party if the DP could be reformed, Rep. Yi said flatly, "that is just to provoke me to quarrel." His answer indicating he will not resign as party president.

Meanwhile, Rep. Yi will wait and watch the moves of non-lawmaker chiefs of party district chapters before he holds a press conference sometime this weekend to announce his official position about the possible creation of a new party.

Independent Lawmaker Joins ULD

SK1107015695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0114 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — Rep. Kang Chang-hui, an independent from Taejon, joined the splinter opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) Tuesday.

In a press conference held at the ULD's headquarters in Mapo, Seoul, Kang said he decided to join the ULD to support the party's objectives for a parliamentary cabinet system and ideologies that were "greatly supported by many people through the June 27 local elections."

Rep. Kang's admission increased the number of ULD seats in the National Assembly to 22.

Industry Federation Forecasts Economic Expansion

SK1107014295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — The South Korean economy will continue to expand in the latter half of 1995, with the electronics, petrochemical, automobile, machinery and steel industries all playing leading roles.

In a business forecast published by the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) Tuesday, the upturn in the world economy and the strong yen will help boost South Korea's exports of automobiles, general machinery, electronics and ships in the second half of the year.

Increased exports will in turn stimulate the domestic market and allow the economy as a whole to continue growing.

The government's programs to promote the capital-goods industry and expand the infrastructure will add fuel to the expanding economic fire, the report said.

But the textile industry is expected to maintain its moderate growth pace in the next half-year period, it added.

Imports will also increase sharply, as domestic demand for transport equipment, sophisticated electronics and machines, intermediate steel products and low-priced textile products are on the increase.

However, imports of petrochemicals are expected to fall in the latter half, as the domestic production capacity of these items has greatly increased in the first half of 1995, FKI reported.

Central Bank Notes Increase in Money Supply

SK0807074195 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Jul 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea's M2 money supply in June expanded 16.0 percent over the year before as the money market situation remained stable, according to the Bank of Korea yesterday.

M2, which measures cash in circulation plus demand and savings deposits, averaged 134.66 trillion won in June, up from the 116.07 trillion won in the same month of 1994.

Over the month of June, the money supply grew a moderate 512.5 billion won, less than half of the 1.32 trillion won month-to-month increase recorded in June last year.

The June M2 represented a continuation of the stability seen in the 16.9 percent figure in May.

The central bank said it plans to restrain the M2 money supply in June around 16 percent in accordance with stabilization economic policies. A 16 percent M2 increase in June would represent an increase of 2.9 trillion won in liquidity.

A 16.5 percent one would represent an increase of 3.5 trillion won and a 15.5 percent one one of 2.3 trillion, the central bank said.

"Fortunately M2 was pegged at 16 percent in June despite the June 27 local elections," said Kim Won-tae, director of monetary policy at the central bank.

He told reporters that the central bank may issue monetary stabilization bonds to absorb liquidity if foreign capital flows into the country in massive amounts for stock investment.

Government To Expand Import Quotas for Grains

SK1107000995 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jul 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea will expand the 1995 minimum market access (MMA) import quotas for 13 grains and starch products including corn and soybean, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said yesterday.

A total of 10 million tons of corn imports will be imported into the country under the special low tariff of 3 percent, up from the current 6.1 million tons for which the low tariff is applicable.

Imports beyond the 10 million tons are subjected to the higher tariff of 361.3 percent.

For soybean imports, the MMA amount has been hiked to 1.5 million tons, up from the current 1 million tons. The soybean tariffs are 5 percent for the amount within MMA and 535.6 percent for the excess.

A ministry official explained the change as assisting the domestic food processing and feed grain industries heavily dependent on imported ingredients.

"Imports brought in under favorable terms will serve to benefit domestic producers and consumers," the official said in a briefing to reporters.

In addition to corn and soybean, the other affected imports include malt barley, sesame seeds, buckwheat, red bean, and sweet potato starch.

Statistics by the ministry indicate corn, wheat, soybean and beef as South Korea's four largest commodity imports.

Antidumping Tariffs on Zinc Ingots Dropped

SK0807073495 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Jul 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Starting today, the government will stop imposing antidumping tariffs on zinc ingots imported from China, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Finance and Economy said yesterday.

The government decision is in line with a ruling by the Korea Trade Commission that such imported zinc ingots have been dumped at the domestic market but they have not damaged related domestic industries, the ministry said.

In response to a complaint by a domestic company, the government has levied preliminary antidumping tariffs of 20.4 percent on zinc ingots imported from China, 25.6 percent on those from Kazakhstan and 27 percent on those from Uzbekistan.

The government will give a refund on collected antidumping tariffs plus interest set by the customs law, it said.

Large Firms Restructuring Telecom Operations

SK0807075795 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Jul 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Large companies are hurrying to restructure their telecommunications business operations in the wake of the expedited opening of the domestic market to foreign competition.

In recognition of the need for qualified research and technical manpower, they are also mounting an aggressive recruiting campaign to gain enhanced competitiveness, industry sources said.

However, they are expressing concern that the heated competition to gain the upper hand in terms of qualified staff could damage the domestic telecommunications industry as a whole.

According to the sources, the Samsung Group recently conducted a sweeping reorganization of its upper management, placing one executive exclusively in charge of Samsung Data Systems.

At the same time, Samsung Electronics shook up its telecommunications equipment division, breaking it down into services and equipment to meet the demand in both hardware and software development.

At the LG Group, LG Electronics and LG Information and Communications have divided telecommunications into personal communications services (PCS) and trunked radio systems (TRS), and cellular communications respectively.

In an effort to boost the activity of its PCS division, LG Electronics has been recruiting Ph.D. holders working at such organizations as the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) and Korea Telecom.

As for the Hyundai Group, it has been moving swiftly through Hyundai Electronics Industries (HEI), winning exclusive contracts with the Korea Maritime Communications Co., a Korea Telecom subsidiary.

HEI also enhanced its presence in the cellular service market, concluding an agreement with Airwave of the United States on equity participation worth 50 million dollars. Even at companies like Korea Telecom, Dacom Corporation and Korea Mobile Telecom constant efforts are being made to maintain their market position.

Death Toll Reaches 206 in Sampoong Collapse

SK1107004395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0039 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — Recovery of bodies from the rubble of the collapsed Sampoong Department Store in Seoul is making rapid progress with 55 bodies retrieved Sunday and Monday.

As of 8 AM [2300 GMT] Tuesday, the death toll from the worst man-made calamity in the country rose to 206, 231 reported still missing and the number of the injured reported at 529, according to an official tally released by Seoul city officials.

If the rubble removal and body recovery operations continue at the present pace, the city officials expect, more than 90 percent of the missing victims will be recovered by the end of this week.

With the removal of the second floor's concrete slabs completed Monday, workers began to remove those of the first floor Tuesday.

The debris removal and body recovery operations, however, will be suspended if more survivors are found, like Choe Myong-sok, who was miraculously rescued Sunday morning 11 days after the collapse of the building, the officials said.

Exit Ban on Woosong Officials

*SK1107074495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0727 GMT 11 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — Authorities investigating the collapse of the Sampoong Department Store in Seoul on Tuesday [11 July] barred 10 construction firm officials allegedly involved in the shoddy construction of the building from leaving the country.

The step was taken after the prosecution confirmed that Woosung Construction Co. completed the steel structural work up to the fifth floor of the five-story department store, instead of up to the fourth floor, as the firm claimed earlier.

Among the 10 people who are subject to the exit ban is Yi Sang-chol, 49, then-chief of Woosung's on-site office at the department store in 1989.

The fact that Woosung Construction Co. completed the structural steel work up to the fifth floor of the building was verified after examining two pillars from the fourth and fifth floors from among the removed debris, a prosecution official said Tuesday.

Should defects or slipshod building practices in connection with the store's construction be found, it is assured that legal action will be taken against those responsible members of Woosung Construction Co., the official said.

Former Ward Official Questioned

*SK1107082495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0803 GMT 11 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, July 11 (YONHAP) — A joint investigation team summoned Hwang Chol-min, 54, former head of the Socho-ku (Ward) office and current chief of the Training Center of Seoul City public officials, on Tuesday to question him on graft charges.

However, the investigation team will not decide until later when to summon Cho Nam-ho, 57, incumbent head of the Socho-ku Office who was elected in the June 27 local elections, after the investigation of Hwang makes progress.

The investigation of Hwang has concentrated on circumstances surrounding his office's approving of the construction of the Sampoong Department Store building despite the fact that the structure's design was illegally changed three times.

The investigation team plans to arrest Hwang if it can confirm that he accepted bribes from the department store in return for his approval.

Hwang, while in office as head of the Socho-ku office, allegedly received a membership to a high-priced health club, valued at 12 million won, from Sampoong and did not pay annual membership fees which totalled 3 million won for the three years he was at the post, the investigation team said.

Meanwhile, Yim Chae-kun, then-chief of the urban improvement bureau of the Socho-ku Office, told prosecution investigators that he was sidestepped in the process of approving the building's completion as one of his subordinates had gone directly to Hwang to get the approval on July 27, 1990.

Burma

Junta Frees Dissident Leader Aung San Suu Kyi

Six-Year Detention Ends

OW1007114195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yangon [Rangoon], July 10 KYODO — Myanmar's [Burma's] ruling military junta Monday [10 July] freed dissident Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi from six years of house arrest.

Suu Kyi was detained July 20, 1989, for allegedly inciting unrest against the government.

Her National League for Democracy won a landslide election victory in 1990, but the junta, officially known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), refused to accept the results and transfer power to an elected government.

She was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1991 for her nonviolent opposition to military rule.

Helped by mediation by a Buddhist monk living in Britain, the Rev. Revata Dhamma [name as received], Suu Kyi and junta leaders began dialogue last September.

Suu Kyi Freed 'Unconditionally'

OW1007143195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1319 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yangon [Rangoon], July 10 KYODO — Myanmar [Burma] pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was freed unconditionally from house arrest Monday [10 July] for the first time in six years, official sources said.

The release of the Nobel Peace Prize winner by Myanmar's ruling military junta eliminated the thorniest issue standing in the way toward Yangon's normalization of relations with the U.S.-led western world critical of the country's human rights record.

The junta's deputy intelligence director, Col. Kyaw Win, went to Suu Kyi's residence at 4:30 P.M. and informed her of its decision to lift the restriction order, the sources said.

With the lifting of the detention order, Suu Kyi is free to meet anyone and visit anywhere like other citizens of the country, as long as she does not violate any existing law, they said.

Suu Kyi, who celebrated her 50th birthday June 19, was placed under house arrest July 20, 1989, under the 1975 law "to safeguard the state from the dangers of subversionists."

According to that law, any citizen can be restricted to his or her house if there is sufficient ground that "a citizen has committed or is committing or is about to commit an act likely to imperil the sovereignty and security of the state or the public peace or tranquility."

Under the law, detention can be extended every 180 days up to a total of five years. Tuesday will mark six full years of house detention, counting the extensions of 180 days.

Official sources earlier said the first year of her detention was an "arrest period" and her "restriction" or detention began the following year, that is July 20, 1990.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy [NLD] won a landslide election victory in 1990, but the junta, officially known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), refused to accept the results and transfer power.

She was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1991 for her nonviolent opposition to military rule.

Signs of rapproachement surfaced in July 1992, three years into her detention, when new SLORC Chairman Gen. Than Shwe ordered the release of several political prisoners and announced Suu Kyi could receive a visit by her family members, including her British husband Michael Aris.

Helped by mediation by a Buddhist monk living in Britain, the Rev. Revata Dhamma [name as received], Suu Kyi and junta leaders began dialogue last September, holding a second meeting in October and paving the way for her eventual release.

Myanmar, once an isolated socialist country, is trying to rejoin the international community by introducing market principles into economic management and acquiring the status of a guest during annual meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

On the domestic front, the junta has reached agreement with most of the many ethnic groups that rebelled against its assumption of authority.

Junta sources said later Suu Kyi is scheduled to hold a press conference from 1 P.M. [local time] Tuesday.

On news of her release, Suu Kyi's friends called on her at her residence in the capital while many reporters were still waiting at the gate to see her.

At her request, the government continued to keep guards at her house, and visitors are allowed only with her permission.

So far, former NLD spokesman Kyi Maung and his wife, and former NLD head Tin Oo and his wife have been seen entering the house.

Both Kyi Maung and Tin Oo were released from prison only last March. Kyi Maung was detained again briefly from June 1 to 8 reportedly for meeting with visiting U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson.

Suu Kyi Meets With NLD Colleagues

BK1107070395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0653 GMT 11 Jul 95

[By Khin Maung Thwin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rangoon, July 11 (AFP) — Burma's foremost political dissident, Aung San Suu Kyi, is to be allowed to enjoy her new-found freedom as long as she strictly obeys the laws of the land, a source said Tuesday.

She was told this when a representative of the ruling military junta went to her home Monday to advise her she was being released after nearly six years under house arrest, the source said.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who was scheduled to meet the press at 1 P.M. (0630 GMT), held a fresh round of talks Tuesday morning with Kyi Maung, a leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) she co-founded in 1988, as well as with her cousin and elections aide Aye Win.

Kyi Maung and two other NLD leaders, Tin U and Aung Shwe, were the first visitors allowed into her lakeside compound Monday evening after the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's release was announced.

Although a Burmese military spokesman said Monday that she had been freed "unconditionally", Aung San Suu Kyi had yet to leave the University Avenue compound where she had been confined since July 1989, witnesses said.

Sources said she was apparently conferring with her NLD colleagues to decide how to proceed.

"I presume she's not going to rush into anything," one source said.

"She's probably keeping her head down, ...testing the water to see if it's real," another source said.

Monday night's crowd of at least 200 at the gate of the compound had dwindled to a handful early Tuesday after the first flush of excitement about her release, but began growing again during the morning despite monsoon showers.

There was an apparent domestic news blackout on her release, as state-run newspapers Tuesday — like official radio and television channels Monday night — carried no reports of the decision.

But the news spread rapidly thanks to the foreign radio and television stations received in the Burmese capital.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who turned 50 last month, was ordered held under house arrest in July 1989 as a danger to the state after her outspoken attacks on the country's military rulers angered the junta.

The NLD, founded as the pro-democracy movement gained momentum in 1988, went on to win the 1990 general elections by a landslide.

The junta, however, refused to hand over power and launched another wave of violent crackdowns on the opposition.

Diplomats and well-wishers outside Aung San Suu Kyi's compound Tuesday generally spoke of cautious optimism regarding her release.

But a prominent NLD member present said he was concerned about her future safety if she moved around freely.

"Who will take care of her welfare and security, which for the past six years was the responsibility of the ruling military," he wondered.

U Tin U Recaps Meeting With Aung San Suu Kyi

BK1107034095 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 0000 GMT 11 Jul 95

[From "Current International Affairs" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Burma's opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been released unconditionally by Burmese authorities at 1600 Burma Standard Time [0930 GMT] on Tuesday, 10 July after being detained in her residence for almost six years. As soon as the BBC received the news, the BBC contacted U Aung Bwa, counsellor at the Burmese Embassy in London, by telephone. U Aung Bwa confirmed the report as correct as follows:

[Begin recording] [U Aung Bwa] I would like to confirm that the restriction order on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been lifted as of the evening of 10 July 1995. [end recording]

U Ne Win of the the BBC also interviewed via telephone former retired General U Tin U, who cofounded the National League for Democracy [NLD] together with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In the first telephone interview, U Tin U said he did not know that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had been released. He went to see Daw Aung San

Suu Kyi after he learned of her release from the BBC and recounted his meeting as follows:

[Begin recording] [U Ne Win] Have you established contact with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi?

[U Tin U] Yes. As soon as we were informed by the BBC, we inquired immediately and found the report to be correct and I went [to Aung San Suu Kyi's residence] right away. I went there with my wife. When we got there, there were already quite a lot of journalists and members of the public. However, no one was allowed to meet with her. U Kyi Maung [former leader of the NLD] was later allowed to meet with her. When I got there U Kyi Maung and his wife were already there. When it was learned that I was there, I was immediately given permission to enter. I and my wife met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. She welcomed us happily and we inquired after each other's state of health and happily greeted each other. Later U Aung Shwe [current chairman of NLD] came and we met each other happily and we left.

[U Ne Win] Was Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in good health?

[U Tin U] She is very healthy other than being a bit thin. I found her to be very alert, lively, and happy.

[U Ne Win] As far as we learned, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is expected to release a statement tomorrow [11 July]. Is it true?

[U Tin U] Daw Aung San Suu Kyi did not mention the statement to us. She said she would meet with all journalists at about 1300 [0630 GMT] and hold a press conference [two preceding words in English]. That is what I understood.

[U Ne Win] Did you U Tin U, U Kyi Maung, U Aung Shwe, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hold any discussion on future programs?

[U Tin U] No, we did not hold any such discussion. However, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi mentioned that her attitude is that she holds no grudge whatsoever. She did hint she would like to do as much as she could in the affairs affecting the country for the good of the country.

[U Ne Win] From what you said, we understand Daw Aung San Suu Kyi bears no grudge whatsoever for her detention.

[U Tin U] She said she bears no grudge.

[U Ne Win] Yes.

[U Tin U] She said she desired mutual consultation for future programs.

[U Ne Win] Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has said she bears no grudge for her detention. What is your attitude, U Tin U, and that of U Kyi Maung and U Aung Shwe?

[U Tin U] We are very happy that she has been released. Our attitude is that mutual consultation can lead to restoration of democracy and human rights in the country.

[U Ne Win] Do you believe the release of Aung San Suu Kyi will lead to a very good opportunity to work in unity and coordination for the future of Burma and bring about political, economic, and social progress.

[U Tin U] We shall have to wait and see. I cannot comment at this point. However, I believe the potential is good. [end recording] [passage omitted on response from NLD liberated area]

Reaction to Aung San Suu Kyi Release Reported

Release Greeted 'Enthusiastically'

BK1007162695 Hong Kong AFP in English
1549 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rangoon, July 10 (AFP) — Burma's military junta freed political opposition leader and Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi without condition on Monday after nearly six years under house arrest, a military spokesman said.

Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy head of military intelligence, said Aung San Suu Kyi had been released "unconditionally" but security had been stepped up at her residence, at her request, to discourage visitors.

She did, however, meet in the early evening with Tin Oo and Kyi Maung, former leaders of the party she cofounded, the National League for Democracy (NLD). The two men were themselves freed from prison in March.

(The release of Aung San Suu Kyi was enthusiastically greeted by human-rights campaigners and other Asian countries, including Japan, which immediately announced it would resume development loans to Burma.)

News of her release was not immediately announced in Burma, but a crowd of well-wishers began gathering outside the gate of her lakeside home before 6:00 p.m. (1130 GMT) after hearing the news on foreign radio stations.

She is to give a press conference on Tuesday [11 July], officials said.

The release surprised observers in Rangoon, who had seen no clear signal that the junta was contemplating such a move as the sixth anniversary of her detention approached.

The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who turned 50 in June, had been ordered held under heavy guard at her lakeside home since July 20 1989, after her increasingly harsh speeches to the pro-democracy movement angered m-litary rulers.

Despite her arrest, the NLD went on to sweep general elections in 1990, but the junta refused to hand over power and instead cracked down again on the opposition.

A number of military intelligence officers in civilian dress were manning the gate, while many young NLD members and the handful of foreign journalists currently in Rangoon braved a downpour to stand vigil.

(Amnesty International, in a statement received in Hong Kong, hailed the release, saying "we are pleased that after six years of campaigning, Aung San Suu Kyi is finally free".

("We hope that no restrictions are placed on her freedom and that she is allowed to participate in her country's pol@tical process. We also hope that this decision marks the beginning of a new policy to fundamentally improve (Burma's) human rights record."

(In Oslo, the Nobel Committee said it was "encouraged" by the news and said it was "difficult to foresee that the government in power can continue its policy unchanged."

(A leading Burmese student dissident group, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), said in a statement it welcomed the Burmese junta's decision to release Aung San Suu Kyi and praised her "utmost vigor and perserverance for human rights in Burma."

(It also demanded the release of "other political prisoners in different jails in Burma" and the establishment of a coalition government led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

(In Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister said the release was to be welcomed "as a major step forward in the democratisation of (Burma) and an improvement (in its record on) human rights."

(The way was now open to a resumption of yen-denominated loans to Burma, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said.

(Japan froze both official loans and aid grants to Burma in 1988 after the military junta took power in a coup.

(But Tokyo resumed aid grants in March with the unblocking of 11 million dollars in official development assistance, following a round of contacts between Burma's rulers and the opposition leader.

(The planned loans are expected to be used to help the country construct an airport in Rangoon, power plants and telecommunications networks, ministr@ officials said. There were no details as to when the loans would resume, or at what level, although an annuncement was expected soon.

(Before the 1988 military coup in Rangoon, Burma received about 10 billion yen (115 million dollars) per annum in official grant aid from Japan.

(In Jakarta, the Indonesian foreign ministry hailed the release as "good news."

(Indonesia and other members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — have also made efforts to encourage change in Burma.

NCGUB Prime Minister Comments

BK1007163195 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sein Win, prime minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, NCGUB, by unidentified correspondent on 10 July; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Prime Minister U Sein Win, our DVOB has learned that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been released. Could you please tell us your view on this matter?

[Win] We have also learned about her release this morning from news agencies. We are very happy about it, but we have to wait and see. As we have stated before, the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi must based upon political reasons, not on personal reasons, and it must be an unconditional [preceding word in English] release. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi must be able to meet with and contact whomever she wants. Just releasing her is not enough. Her release must be the beginning of a national reconciliation. As we have always mentioned, the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], Daw Aung San Suu Kyi — a leader — democratic forces, and national ethnic forces have to hold talks to begin the national reconciliation to resolve the problems — political problems — in Burma. Just releasing her is enough. Initiatives have to be made for the discussions. This is our view.

[Correspondent] We are concerned about a point mentioned by the SLORC that as long as the prescribed laws are not violated [Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will not be rearrested]. How do you view this?

[Win] How it is going to be viewed depends upon Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I don't want to comment directly on this matter, but I think progress has to be made in this area. Her release must not be based upon personal reasons. There must be political freedom, and the the path of national reconciliation has to be used. Her release must be for resolving the problems in Burma. If the problems in Burma are not resolved they will get worse. Whether we like the condition or not, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is now free, and she will decide on this matter. We will wait and see from this side on how she is going to lead the future political development. We think we need to encourage her from this side. We, the democratic forces and national ethnic forces on this side, are very happy to hear of the unexpected release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and we are encouraged by it. We will continue to work to achieve peace and democracy. We will support Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's work carried out inside the country. Moreover, we have a lot of things to do. I would like say that now Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, our leader, has been released, and the public, under the leadership of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, must continue their struggle until the democracy is achieved.

NLD's Tin Oo Welcomes Release

BK1007163495 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Retired General Tin Oo, former chairman of the National League for Democracy, NLD, in Rangoon by an unidentified correspondent in London on 10 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] We have heard that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been released. What would you like to say on that matter?

[Tin Oo] Naturally, we are happy since she is our colleague. We should be happy. We should say it is a very positive sign.

[Correspondent] Yes. Then, do you believe that the situation of the country will improve?

[Tin Oo] I could not comment on that at the moment. I don't know what to say regarding that. Since I don't go out of my house I am unable to comment. Have you talked to or have you had any contact with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi?

[Correspondent] We have had no contact as yet.

[Tin Oo] Yes, yes. Well, I was surprised when you told me the news. We all don't know.

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Tin Oo] Are you sure she has been released?

[Correspondent] Yes, I am sure.

[Tin Oo] I am happy. I am very happy.

[Correspondent] What are your future plans?

[Tin Oo] I can't say anything about that yet. I am living peacefully here.

ABSDF, NLD-LA Leaders Interviewed

BK1007164995 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Moe Thee Zun, leader of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, ABSDF, and U Aung Saw Oo, spokesperson of the National League for Democracy-Liberated Area, NLD-LA, "somewhere on the Thai-Burma border" on 10 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Moe Thee Zun] The SLORC's [State Law and Order Restoration Council] release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is to avoid another public protest. We have received news that the ABSFU [All Burma Federation of Student Unions] and the CRABU [Committee for Reestablishment of All Burma Students Union] will begin to call for strikes [preceding word in English] and protests from the 11th. Another thing is that the SLORC (?wants) to end an international economic embargo. Another factor is that SLORC had been faced with an economic blockade for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest. The most important fact is the strong determination and will of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We are very proud of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Another matter is that we must continue our struggle for holding a tripartite meeting between the democratic forces led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the national forces, and the SLORC and the formation of an interim government led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We all believe that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be able to overcome these difficulties.

[U Aung Saw Oo] I would like to comment briefly that there should be a nationwide cease-fire after the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, other detained political prisoners should be unconditionally released, and the SLORC, if they want genuine national reconciliation, should hold a tripartite meeting under the auspices of the international community.

NCGUB Issues Statement

BK1107052495 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 11 Jul 95

["Statement on the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi" by the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma Information Office in Washington, DC on 10 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We join the whole Burmese nation in welcoming the "unconditional" release of Daw

Aung San Suu Kyi by the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] military junta. Many human rights organizations, democracy advocates, religious institutions and individuals, all of whom we consider friends of Burma, have worked tirelessly to gain her freedom. To all our friends, we say thank you. Without your concerted efforts and pressure the release would never have come about.

We also wish to acknowledge the efforts of the United Nations and the international community who has repeatedly called for the release of our leader. Even though we are all in agreement that Daw Suu's release is something to rejoice about, we remain cautious because our struggle for democracy and freedom has yet to be realized.

Our past experience in dealing with the military generals has always, unfortunately, been bitter. We urge the generals to place the interests of the nation first and to show genuine goodwill in trying to find a solution to the problems of the country.

Daw Suu's release should not simply be the granting of her freedom because her detention was illegal in the first place. Her release should be followed by a national reconciliation process that will lead to the establishment of a democratic, free, peaceful and united Burma governed by civilian rule as elected in 1990 by people of Burma.

'Source' Expresses KNU 'Delight'

OW1107080395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0746 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok, July 11 KYODO — If the release of Aung San Suu Kyi was done in good faith, it is a good sign of improvement in Myanmar [Burma], a source representing Myanmar's largest ethnic rebel group Karen National Union (KNU) said Tuesday [11 July].

At the Thai-Myanmarese border town of Mae Sot, the source expressed the KNU's delight over the release Monday of the Nobel prize-winning dissident leader, who had been held under house arrest for just shy of six years since July 1989.

The KNU represents more than 80,000 ethnic Karens displaced along the border with Thailand since KNU strongholds were captured by the ruling military forces early this year.

Suu Kyi's release renewed the hopes of ethnic minority groups for improvements in their struggle against the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), which took power after suppressing pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988, the source said.

A Karen refugee who has lived at Mae Sot for 30 years said, "everyone has their hopes on Aung San Suu Kyi to represent us in negotiating with the junta to solve our national problems. If we can attain full democracy I would like to return home, and I believe thousands of us will do so."

Aung San Suu Kyi Holds News Conference 11 Jul

BK1107081795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rangoon, July 11 (AFP) — Aung San Suu Kyi ended nearly six years of house arrest with a news conference Tuesday at the lakeside family compound which had been her prison.

Before answering questions, the country's foremost political dissident read a prepared statement which said the junta had released her unconditionally.

The junta, officially known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), had asked her to help in their efforts to promote peace in Burma, she said in the statement.

The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner said she would continue to work for democracy.

Asked about reports her continued freedom depended on her following the laws of the land, she said only there had been no conditions mentioned in the written order releasing her.

The SLORC offered to provide her with security and other assistance if she requested it, the prepared statement said.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who turned 50 last month, looked slightly drawn but responded energetically to reporters' questions.

Wearing a traditional Burmese longyi (sarong) and blouse in a pale, neutral color, she seemed to enjoy the almost hour-long news conference.

Affirms Commitment to Dialogue

LD1107104595 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1000 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has strongly reaffirmed her commitment to dialogue with the military junta to achieve democratic goals. Evan Williams reports from Rangoon that a jubilant Suu Kyi told reporters on the day after her release from six years' house arrest that the military had placed no conditions on her activities but she urged the international community to proceed with caution in its dealings with Burma.

[Begin Williams recording] Ending her six years of isolation, Suu Kyi remained firmly committed to the democratic goals that got her detained in the first place, but she issued a conciliatory message, saying all groups including the military should have a say in the country's future and how best to run the country. Suu Kyi stresses there must be a dialogue between all groups to solve Burma's problems. She says she is taking everything step by step to find out exactly what has been happening, but has already signalled disagreement with aspects of the regime's constitutional framework. She also calls for the release of all political prisoners, stressing she bears no bitterness for the six years of house arrest. She urges the international community not to hastily resume ties at this stage. Evan Williams, Rangoon. [end recording]

Cambodia

Commentary Views Impact of ASEAN Membership

BK1007050995 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian
1300 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Station commentary: "To Remove Water From an Ear, More Water Should First Be Put Into That Ear"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 June, the National Assembly expressed huge support for the Royal Government [RG] by voting 91 to 1 to adopt a law ratifying the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, a precursor to Cambodia becoming a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN.

The RG needed the prior approval of the National Assembly on this matter because it concerns the RG's policy and issues [word indistinct] specified in the constitution.

It should be noted that on (?28 July), ASEAN will convene an annual meeting in Brunei where Cambodia will take part as an observer, while Vietnam is to become a full member after being an observer for two consecutive years.

This (?is testimony to the lofty pride of the Cambodian nation) in the current phase of restoration and redevelopment of the motherland.

What would be granted and denied to Cambodia after its inclusion in ASEAN?

Some people are concerned over the RG joining countries that are developed in terms of wealth and the economy. Another problem is finance, as before being accepted as an ASEAN member, Cambodia needs to pay an initial sum of $1 million and other expenses.

A number of MP's have expressed worry over the Cambodian economy, saying it would be unlikely that the RG would be allowed to join the major association. Ing Huot, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, somehow explained that the main reason [words indistinct] and the issues of regional security and stability. He said Cambodia had nothing to lose, but instead stand to gain by asking the ASEAN states to assist Cambodia.

It is true that to qualify as an ASEAN member a country should make an initial payment of $1 million which will be deposited in an Indonesian bank account to earn interest. The interest will be used to organize various ASEAN meetings that cost some $600,000 annually. Moreover, the payment (?is made just once, and not made every year) [words indistinct] can become a full ASEAN member.

Southeast Asian observers said the pace to Cambodia taking up membership in ASEAN depends on the country itself. As for ASEAN members, they want Cambodia to be a full member as quickly as possible.

It is worth recalling that there are 10 countries in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and Burma. ASEAN was established in 1967 and comprises six members; that is, Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, and Malaysia. Vietnam will become the 7th full ASEAN member this July.

First Prime Minister Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh said Cambodia's main aim in joining ASEAN is to promote cooperation with other countries in the region, since the RG has long been in the process of implementing a peaceful, neutral, and cooperative policy.

The prince added that most investments are from ASEAN countries, saying he hoped that when Cambodia becomes a full ASEAN member, everything will be even better. Cambodia's inclusion in ASEAN as a member is no different from using money as a bait to attract the enormous amount of money from the association to help develop the country. This approach is like the saying: To remove water from an ear, more water should first be put into that ear.

Hun Sen Congratulates Ieng Muli on Election

BK0907135795 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian
1300 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 9 July, Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Ieng Muli, who has just been elected as the chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP].

The message reads as follows:

Your Excellency:

I am extremely delighted to learn the good news that you have been elected as the BLDP chairman.

I am convinced that, with you as the BLDP leader, cooperation between the major political parties in the National Assembly and in the Royal Government will certainly proceed in a most effective way with a view to implementing the national unification policy under the lofty chairmanship of His Majesty the King of Cambodia.

Please, Your Excellency, accept my most sincere compliments.

Khmer Rouge Cite Rangsi on Government Corruption

BK1007035795 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During his overseas trip, Sam Rangsi, former minister of economy and finance of the two-headed government, was reportedly interviewed on 5 July by the French newspaper FRANCE-SOIR. In the interview, Sam Rangsi openly exposed the crime committed by the two-headed government in the killing of three foreigners at Phnum Voar [Kampot Province] in September 1994.

Sam Rangsi said that at that time he was the two-headed government's economy and finance minister and that he knew a lot of dubious things. He added when the Phnum Voar incident occurred, puppets Hun Sen, Sar Kheng, Ranariddh, and other self-appointed Army commanders, such as Pol Saroeun and Ke Kimyan did not want to solve the problem through proper negotiations. All they wanted was to have the three foreigners killed to put the blame on the Khmer Rouge.

What was the purpose of the move? It was aimed at hoodwinking long-nosed guys into shipping more weapons, ammunition, and cash to them so they could continue fuelling war to kill Cambodians.

Who ordered the action? Unquestionably, it was communist Vietnam.

Communist Vietnam has always staged foul plays with the long-nosed people. France even ate cat that communist Vietnam claimed to be rabbit meat. The United States believed ox or water buffalo bones that communist Vietnam presented to it to be the remains of missing American servicemen. Communist Vietnam has carried out the scheme repeatedly. Cambodians always maintain that the Vietnamese have never discarded their tricks.

Even at a round-table meeting in Phnom Penh in June 1994 between the two-headed government and Democratic Kampuchea, communist Vietnam ordered its lackey puppets to maneuver to sabotage the talks, ruin a peaceful solution, and destroy national reconciliation, thereby allowing it to fuel war further to cheat the stupid alliance.

As for the Phnum Voar issue, the local people already exposed the criminal activities conducted by communist Vietnam and its lackey puppets and informed the nation and the international community about the truth of the issue in detail. Now, Sam Rangsi has confirmed the story as stated by the Phnum Voar people.

It is reported that the exposure by Sam Rangsi makes the French, Australian, and British peoples, especially the relatives of the foreigners killed by communist Vietnam, see the truth more clearly and become more furious. In the past, the peoples already put pressure on their government not to ship armaments, ammunition, and cash to the two-headed government, enabling it to continue war. Now, after learning the news, they will indignantly put more pressure on their country and on the two-headed government, the out-and-out lackey regime of communist Vietnam.

Government Claims 21 KR Killed Near Border

BK0807100495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PHNOM PENH, July 8 (AFP) — Cambodian troops have killed 21 Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas, including a high-ranking rebel officer, in continuing fighting near the Thai border in the northwest, a senior military official said Saturday.

Guerrillas and government troops have been engaged in fierce fighting in the vicinity of the key Khmer Rouge base at Khla Ngoap (Dead Tiger Village) just 100 to 200 meters (yards) from Thailand in Banteay Meanchey province for several days.

Khla Ngoap is a strategically important position on the approach to the Khmer Rouge military stronghold of Phnum Malai.

"The fighting is still going on," a senior military intelligence officer told AFP. "Our aim is to keep moving forward to Khla Ngoap and then maybe to Phnum Malai, but we will wait to think about Malai until after we take Khla Ngoap."

He said that at least 10 government soldiers had been killed in the fighting since Thursday but that 21 guerrillas, including the deputy commander of rebel division 321, had also been killed.

Meanwhile, in Battambang province just south of Banteay Meanchey, where the Khmer Rouge took the government base at Treng on National Route 10 early last week, the rebels have begun attempts to flank the army and cut off their supply lines, according to police and military officials.

While the situation on the road near Treng about 42 kilometers (26 miles) south of Cambodia's second largest city of Battambang was quiet Saturday, they said the Khmer Rouge had begun to attack government positions on the northwest side of the road in Banan district.

"The Khmer Rouge have stopped fighting along the road," said a police intelligence officer. "But they are trying to flank our troops with attacks from the north and northwest to cut them off from the road and supplies."

It was unclear whether those attacks had been successful, a senior military source said, but he added that at least 350 reinforcements from the army's Division Eight base in Pursat province immediately south of Battambang had been sent in late Friday to assist in the fighting.

Khmer Rouge Rap Plan To Send Workers Abroad

BK1007055295 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report from Phnom Penh, the traitors Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Ranariddh, and Sar Kheng planned to conscript and sell 300,000 people to serve as prostitutes or maids overseas. They will pocket the money and use it to continue fuelling the communist Vietnamese war to kill the Cambodian nation, people, and race in compliance with the order of communist Vietnam, their master.

This is another greatest manslaughter and fascist crime committed by the group of traitors Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Ranariddh, and Sar Kheng to kill the Cambodian nation and exterminate the Cambodian race in accordance with communist Vietnam's policy of swallowing Cambodia and annihilating the Cambodian race. In selling the Cambodian people overseas, the traitorous two-heads betray the nation and sell out the nation and land, sea, islands, forests, and everything belonging to the nation and people.

The two-heads also allow the Vietnamese nationals to stream into Cambodia like [word indistinct] who tear and devour the flesh and blood of the Cambodian nation and people; who despoil and seize land, the rice fields, and orchards of the Cambodian people; and who plunder the economy, rice, fish, meat, jobs, causing millions of people to lose all their land and jobs and to starve.

The traitorous two-heads have sold youths, male and female alike, to evil foreigners, especially to the alliance, their master, to gratify their lust, thereby spreading AIDS in a most barbaric manner.

Now, traitors Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Ranariddh, and Sar Kheng have sold the people and their flesh and blood for money and used it to further the communist Vietnamese war. This is the traitorous, fascist, and corrupt regime of Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Ranariddh, and Sar Kheng. They have gone so far as to kill the nation and sell the nation, people, and everything so that they can line their own pockets and serve as out-and-out lackeys of communist Vietnam and foreigners.

This is the reason why the nation and people have united in the continuing struggle and fight to terminate the two-heads to save the nation and prevent it from becoming a second Kampuchea Kraom at all costs.

Khmer Rouge Condemn Military Conscription

BK1007101995 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Communique issued by the spokesman of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation on 8 July; place not given — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] I. According to information and reports from everywhere throughout the country, the traitorous two-heads, who are communist Vietnam's out-and-out lackeys, are currently intensifying fascist actions to conscript soldiers and militiamen for the purpose of further fuelling war to kill the people systematically and ceaselessly. They are conscripting everybody, including under-aged children and aged persons. Each village is nearly empty of male adults. They are carrying out the conscription in both rural areas and cities all over the country. Specifically in provinces in eastern Cambodia, like Kompong Cham, Kratie, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kandal, Takeo, they have relentlessly repeated the conscription many times each year.

II. The fascist conscription of soldiers and militiamen is the greatest crime aimed at killing the Cambodian people and exterminating the Cambodian race once and for all.

1. They are stepping up the conscription right at a time when the people need to plow land and plant crops.

Their actions, with a well-defined political goal, have been well planned to undermine the people, preventing them from having time to undertake their farming production activities. So, the people, who are starving to death and who have nothing left for over 16 years due to the communist Vietnamese war and the despoiling by over 4 million Vietnamese, remain famished more seriously this year and in the years to come.

2. Communist Vietnam has ordered the two-heads to conscript soldiers and militiamen with the intention of totally eliminating male villagers in eastern Cambodia, thus allowing it to send Vietnamese systematically to establish administrators, both military and civilian, at all levels in Cambodia. Communist Vietnam's action is aimed at grabbing Cambodia's territory along the eastern border more widely and more deeply.

3. While the two-heads are conscripting soldiers and militiamen to fuel war further to destroy national reconciliation and peace and kill Cambodians, the communist Vietnamese are striving to pump the Vietnamese in (?to replace Cambodians). The number of the Vietnamese which has now increased from 5, 7, to 10 million will transform Cambodia into a second Kampuchea Kraom in just a few more years.

Those actions are aimed at killing of the Cambodian people in a massive, systematic, and well-planned manner in accordance with communist Vietnam's strategy of exterminating the Cambodian race. They are the most cruel and barbaric genocide of the Cambodian race. They constitute the killing of a nation, a race, and a people. They are the greatest crime against humanity that the international court has to convict at all costs.

III. The Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] condemns with indignation the greatest crime that exterminates the Cambodian race through the fascist actions of conscripting soldiers and militiamen to kill the people. The PGNUNS wishes to appeal again to the entire Cambodian nation and people to continue to unite in carrying out all forms of fighting and struggles more actively, more vigorously, and more effectively everywhere in order to prevent those ghouls from conscripting the people's sons, daughters, and husbands to wage war and die.

Experiences in many localities show that the most effective measure to prevent the conscription is that the people should continue fighting and struggling with the implementation of the energetic guerrilla and people's warfare, cutting off enemy supply lines, planting punji stakes, sniping at the enemies, and further completely wiping out the communist Vietnamese puppets' civilian administrators at villages and communes. In doing so in a permanent and well-planned manner everywhere, the enemies can never come and invade the people's villages to conscript soldiers and militiamen.

At the beginning of this 17th rainy season, some of the old two- headed soldiers who are still alive are being killed or wounded and are breaking loose from their ranks in force unstoppably. Should they be unable to recruit new soldiers and militiamen, they will have no soldiers to fight. Then, war will come to an end and national reconciliation and national unification of all political tendencies' national forces will certainly be achieved with a view to joining hands to save the nation and resolve all national and social problems in a timely fashion in keeping with the wish of our Cambodian nation and people.

Along with this, PGNUNS wishes also to appeal to the peace-and justice-loving people in the region and the world as well as the American, French, and Australian people to continue to oppose the shipments of armaments, ammunition, and cash to the two-heads, who are the puppets of communist Vietnam, preventing them from further waging war to kill the Cambodians. The action is not only for Cambodia's survival, security, peace, and being free from war, but also for the sake of peace and stability in the region and the whole world.

8 July 1995

[signed] PGNUNS spokesman

Khmer Rouge Radio Describes 4-8 Jul Operations

BK1007142895 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] I. From 4 to 7 July the two-heads mustered forces to resist our offensive on Route 5 and at Poipet. The objective of the invading forces was to make inroads at Banteay Ti Muoy and Khla Ngoap, but they could not get through our fields of punjis and mines.

The result of the three-day fighting is as follows: We destroyed three T-55 tanks — one on 5 July, another on 6 July, and the third on 7 July, when it went over one of our mines. All of the tank crew perished. We killed 13 enemy personnel, including a commanding officer of the 35th Regiment, 12th Division, and wounded eight others. The invading forces were routed; all fled into the Moat Chruk area. At 1800 on 7 July we continued to raid the Moat Chruk dam area, killing six enemy personnel on the spot, including a commanding officer of the 19th Regiment, 6th Division.

II. While crushing and destroying the two-headed invading forces, our men continued to attack and liberate several other enemy positions.

The result is as follows: At 1430 on 7 July we raided the enemy position at Pheas Khluon dam. After three hours of fighting, we crushed and liberated three enemy company positions, killing five enemy personnel on the spot and wounding six others. We seized four AK's, one RPD, and an ICOM walkie-talkie. On the same day, the enemy mustered forces and twice sent them to the rescue of their comrades. Both attempts were smashed by our men, who killed two more enemy personnel and wounded five others.

At 0830 on 8 July, we continued to sweep through and completely liberated the Pheas Khluon position.

In sum, from 4 to 8 July we swept through and liberated seven enemy positions, namely, Pheas Khluon, Boeng Krabau, Yeay At, Kop Toch, Kut Ta Sat, Tuol Samsoep Pram, and Tumnup Bei Choan. All the two-headed soldiers fled in disarray across the Kop River toward Route 5. Our National Army is pushing forward on all fronts.

III. Route 5 from Sisophon to Poipet remains cut. Poipet continues to come under both our artillery and infantry attacks. The enemy has insufficient personnel to resist us. The remnants of the 12th and 6th Divisions, amounting to less than 10 percent of the total, have been decimated. The forces formed by the mixture of new conscripts, road guards, men borrowed from the 3d Division, and the provincial forces of Banteay Meanchey have also been completely trounced. This is the enemy situation on the Sisophon-Poipet front as well as in all of Battambang. The enemy forces have been stretched to the limit as they must shoulder the attacks on the Sisophon-Poipet portion of Route 5 as well as those on Route 10 and at Moung and Bavel.

As for the bravado statements that Ieng Muli and Sieng Lapresse — the dyed-in-the-wool lackeys of communist Vietnam, the alliance, and the two-heads — have taken turns in vociferously uttering over the past few days, they were all dictated by the alliance, communist Vietnam, Hun Sen, and Rannariddh in a bid to stop their routed soldiers from fleeing. In reality, the former were both frightened out of their wits.

Khmer Rouge Withdraw From Treng Military Base

BK1007132095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PHNOM PENH, July 10 (AFP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas who last week captured a key military base have withdrawn to reinforce positions under heavy attack by the government near the Thai border, military and police officials said Monday.

The guerrillas, backed by seven tanks and a variety of large artillery pieces, captured the government base at the small village of Treng, about 42 kilometers (26 miles) southwest of Battambang town in northwest Cambodia after fierce fighting last Tuesday.

"A military intelligence team arrived in Treng on Sunday, but they saw no Khmer Rouge dead or alive," a senior police official in Battambang, Cambodia's second largest city, told AFP.

He said the rebel tanks were not in sight and that the guerrillas had blown up small bridges, portions of the road and drainage pipes along the sides of the highway.

A military intelligence official in Phnom Penh said that government troops, who are still positioned just north of Treng on the road, would move toward Treng "soon."

The rebels who held the base are believed to have been ordered to pull back to help their comrades defending their base at Khla Ngoap (Dead Tiger Village) about 75 kilometers northwest of Treng in Banteay Meanchey province just inside Cambodia on the Thai border, the police official and military sources said.

Government forces backed by helicopters and tanks have launched a major offensive to take Khla Ngoap, a strategic Khmer Rouge outpost on the approach to their military stronghold at Phnum Malai just west of there.

The army launched its attack on Khla Ngoap last week after repeated rebel attacks on the border town of Poipet and villages near it forced more than 20,000 people to flee their homes.

Indonesia

Alatas Briefs Reporters on Geneva Meeting

BK1007160195 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Indonesia has welcomed UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali's proposal to hold another meeting for East Timor leaders, but such a meeting must be held after the tripartite meeting attended by the Indonesian and Portuguese foreign ministers and the UN secretary general. Alatas said if the East Timor leaders' meeting is held before the tripartite meeting, it will give the impression that the two meetings are interrelated. The fact is that the East Timor leaders' meeting is not a parallel meeting that will help solve the East Timor issue.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this at Jakarta's Sukarno-Hatta Airport today on his return from the tripartite meeting in Geneva. He added that the seventh tripartite meeting will be held on 19 January 1996, when three main topics will be discussed.

[Begin Alatas recording] The seventh meeting will discuss three substantive issues. The first issue is related to a framework to solve the East Timor issue, which is still in its preliminary stage. The second issue involves efforts to preserve and promote East Timor's cultural identity. The third issue is how to restore bilateral ties between Indonesia and Portugal, which is part of the efforts to seek a comprehensive settlement of the issue. [end recording]

Alatas said Indonesia and Portugal also agreed to have their permanent representatives in New York to meet once a month to prepare materials for the next ministerial meeting.

Alatas Comments on Ties to Portugal, East Timor

BK1007031495 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1133 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Geneva, 9 Jul — Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said that it is possible to reopen diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Portugal, because this is can be one of the dimensions or aspects of efforts to seek a comprehensive solution to the East Timor issue.

"However, I have not hoped for this to happen yet," Alatas told journalists after attending the sixth Tripartitite Meeting on East Timor with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barraso.

The issue of Indonesia-Portugal relations was cited in item five of the joint communique of the sixth tripartite meeting as one of the issues that would help settle the East Timor question.

Alatas said the normalization of diplomatic relations with Portugal depended on that country because it was Portugal that broke off ties with Indonesia.

"Indonesia will never ask for it, it is all up to Portugal to decide whether to reopen diplomatic relations or not. They broke it off, therefore, they should be the one to reopen it, " Alatas said.

On the East Timorese right to self determination, Alatas said so far Indonesia regarded the matter settled since the representatives of the majority of the East Timor people issued a statement expressing their wish to be integrated into Indonesia through the "Balibo" Declaration in 1976. On the reverse side, Portugal, who considers itself still as the "administering authority" [two preceding words in English] in East Timor, continues to demand a referendum.

Alatas said that Indonesia was flexible because it had responded to two initiatives (1987 and 1991) by the UN secretary general calling for a solution to the East Timor issue, but Portugal caused a deadlock at both meetings.

"Indonesia had never set a 'fixed price', instead, it was Portugal that never changed its position such that the way to resolve the East Timor issue had not been found," he said. [passage omitted on Portugal's demand for use of Portuguese language as medium of instruction in schools in East Timor]

Ali Alatas said that the Indonesian Government welcomed the holding of the all-inclusive intra East Timorese dialogue, AETD, so long as it will create reconciliation in East Timor.

However, Indonesia would object if the AETD was held regularly each time before the opening of the tripartite meeting between the UN secretary general, the Indonesian foreign minister, and the Portuguese foreign minister.

On the solution to the East Timor issue, Alatas admitted that at the moment the discussions had just entered the preliminary stage of discussing substantive issues, therefore, there is a long way to go.

After going through the stage of confidence building measures at the previous fifth tripartite meeting, the discussions on substantive issues, identified by the UN secretary general, were debated at the sixth meeting.

The seventh Tripartite Meeting on East Timor will be held in London on 16 January 1996.

Ports, Airport Planned for Natuna LNG Project

BK0907071795 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1213 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 6 Jul (ANTARA) - Three ports, namely for tankers, logistics, and the Indonesian Navy, and one airport will soon be built in the area where the liquefied natural gas [LNG] exploitation project is being implemented in the Natuna islands. The above projects are aimed at facilitating development of the $42-billion Natuna island project.

The construction of the three ports and one airport will be financed by part of the $42-billion investment even though the exact amount is not yet known. This was disclosed to reporters in Jakarta Thursday by B.J. Habibie, chairman of the committee in charge of the Natuna island development, after he swore in several officials attached to the Office of the State Minister for Research and Technology, the Strategic Industries Management Board, and the Agency for the Study and Application of Technology.

Habibie said the construction of the three ports is to show that the world's largest LNG project will be carried out in a serious and professional way.

"We must give a good account to the $42-billion investment and the megaproject must be carried out in a serious and professional way," Habibie said.

The tanker port is designed for storing LNG, the logistics port is for storing materials used for the LNG project, while the airport is for transporting people from and to the Natuna islands. The port for the Navy is designed for ensuring security of the project, which will be jointly done by the Pertamina state oil company and the U.S. Exxon company.

"Natuna island is three times bigger than Singapore, but it is located far away from Indonesia's economic activities. As Natuna island is located in Indonesia's maritime boundary, we must seriously safeguard the megaproject," Habibie said.

He also said his office continues to make efforts to attract investors in the project which will begin in the 1997/98 fiscal year. "Last April, I hosted a presentation session about the Natuna project to a group of businessmen and bankers in London. I will do the same thing in France, Germany, and the United States this year," Habibie said.

Earlier, Habibie installed two first-echelon officials at the Office of the State Minister for Research and Technology, namely Professor Sofyan Effendi as assistant to the minister, and Drs. [academic title] as an expert staff in corporate economics, industry, and finance. Habibie also installed officials in charge of Natuna island project, who include among others Dr. Imam Pragmyono, who is in charge of internal supervision, and Dr. Wendy Aritenang, who is in charge of monitoring development project, and Drs. Edie Prihantoro as project director.

Philippines

Bankers Oppose Entry of More Foreign Banks

BK1007143295 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 6 Jul 95 p B3

[Report by Margie Quimpo-Espino]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The influential Bankers Association of the Philippines [BAP] is opposing attempts to further liberalize the entry of foreign banks in the country, warning that this could lead to "over-banking."

In a position paper drawn up by BAP's chief economist and director for policy research, Johnny Noe E. Ravalo, the BAP said that such a move is "premature" as the 10 new foreign banks have hardly started operations and there is yet no basis to say whether the liberalization is good for the local economy or not.

"Unless a second set of full service foreign banks can offer better non-proprietary technology, their preserve provides no added value but may instead incur the cost of eroding fair returns," Ravalo said.

In his paper, he said Negros Oriental Rep. [Representative] Margarito Teves, one of the primary movers of the initiative to liberalize the entry of foreign banks in the country, has indicated that a group in the Lower House will push for a second round of foreign bank entry.

"It may be dangerous to impose a legislative tone to a function that is otherwise the sole responsibility of the Monetary Board (the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral [Central Bank]) in the normal course of evaluation of the needs of the domestic market," he said.

Last year, Congress passed RA [Republic Act] 7721 or the Bank Liberalization Law that allowed 10 new foreign banks to operate in the country. Prior to this, the Central Bank Act specified that no foreign bank, other than those that have been in the country before 1948 (when the Act was passed) would be allowed to have a full service license in the Philippines.

"To open up the business environment to another set of full- service foreign banks thus erodes the privilege that the 10 named banks achieved with what was supposed to be the first and last round," Ravalo said.

The BAP economist added that opening the industry further is like "modifying the rules midway after the die has been cast."

"This is a sight that is not likely to sit well, not only with the 10 foreign banks, but rather with all potential investors because it can easily be interpreted as policy wavering if not downright indecisiveness," he said.

First Quarter Economic Boom Reported Nationwide

BK0407062395 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 29 Jun 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) yesterday said the first quarter economic boom is being felt nationwide, with many regions experiencing impressive economic growth, according to a statement issued yesterday.

A report from the planning agency noted that in a number of regions, remarkable progress is being made in the areas of investment, exports, agriculture, and price stability.

In investments, almost all regions registered higher capital inflows during the first quarter than in the same period last year. This is based on equity investments approved by the Board of Investments and the total paid-up capital recorded by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Regions 1, 4, 10, 12, Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, and the Cordillera Autonomous Region recorded increases of at least 150 percent in investments.

Meanwhile, all except two regions generated higher export earnings in the first quarter compared with year-ago rates.

Region 11 was the best export performer, earning a total of $287.32 million in the first quarter, a 133 percent surge from last year's comparative figure.

In agriculture, regions 5, 10, and 8 recorded the highest increases of 58.73 percent, 52.9 percent, and 40.86 percent in rice production between the 1994 and 1995 first quarter periods.

In corn production, regions 9, 3, 5, 8, and 2 were the best performers, posting increases of at least 117 percent in the first quarter.

Despite the robust growth in the regions, prices have remained relatively stable. According to the NEDA report, all but one region registered lower inflation rates for the first quarter.

In Region 2, prices have virtually remained unchanged, as the inflation rate was recorded at only 2.1 percent in the first quarter, the lowest in the country for the period.

The NEDA said this was due to the substantial drop in the prices of food in the region, particularly rice, dairy products, eggs, fish, fruits, and vegetables.

For the rest of the year, the NEDA said that the prevailing peace and order, improved infrastructure systems, and stable power supply are among the key factors that would continue to make the regions attractive to investments and help sustain their economic expansion.

Central Bank Cites Rise in Foreign Investment

BK1007144295 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 6 Jul 95 p 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign funds flowed into the local money market at an average of $8.45 million daily during the first four months of the year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas [BSP; Central Bank of the Philippines] revealed yesterday.

These funds, classified as portfolio investments that went to the stock market and high-yielding government securities, reached a total of $1.014 billion, up by 7.6 percent from $942 million in the comparative period last year, the BSP said.

For April alone, portfolio funds amounted to $191 million. These funds, along with other forms of foreign capital, brought the gross total foreign investment in the Philippines to $1.7 billion.

A BSP report said: "Net inflows of foreign investments increased substantially to $205 million due to inward remittance of proceeds from the sale of the National Steel Corporation [NSC] and to the 7.6 percent increase in portfolio investments."

NSC, a state-owned company was sold partly to the Malaysian Wing Tiek Group, which remitted last April the $130 million partial payment for a 51 percent stake in NSC.

The big inflow of portfolio investments helped narrow down the country's balance of payments deficit to $440 million as of April, from a $645 million shortfall in the first quarter.

That the BOP chalked up a deficit meant the country had incurred losses in its other financial and trade deals with the rest of the world.

In world trade for instance, the BSP said, imports outpaced exports by a ratio of 3:2, for a gaping trade imbalance worth $2.75 billion in the January-April period.

That "loss" was partly offset by gains from services and transfers (foreign aid and grants) the BSP said. Services, including remittances by expatriate workers, netted $961 million, while transfers yielded another $196 million.

"Services receipts grew by 58.4 percent as peso conversions of foreign currency deposits reached $514 million," the BSP said.

BSP Gov. [Governor] Gabriel Singson said the BOP deficit could be temporary since the country has achieved gains in certain other sectors. The capital account, for instance, recorded a surplus of $447 million. While this was lower than the level last year, it meant the country relied less on foreign loans, the BSP said.

Singson said he was hopeful the BOP would eventually be turned around and have a surplus by the end of the year.

Thailand

Aung San Suu Kyi's Release Hailed

Editorial Welcomes Release

BK1107052795 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jul 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Release of Suu Kyi is Very Welcome News"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports that Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been freed after almost six years under house arrest can only be welcome news for all who care about her well- being, and the future of popular participation in that country's future.

The reports initially were cautiously received by Burma watchers, as well as pro-democracy people, not least because of the timing of the disclosure.

The news emerged on the eve of the end, under Burmese law, of her period of detention which falls on July 11. The military junta apparently wanted to show that it abides by its own law, even if it might refuse to bend to the demands of others.

But the news also closely followed reports, which came to light at the end of last week, that US senators are planning to push for legislation calling for economic sanctions against Burma.

Not least importantly, the reports came less than two weeks before the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) begins preparing for an annual meeting of its foreign ministers, a forum that last July gave a representative of Rangoon's military leaders an unprecedented chance to appear with the region's most respectable ministers — albeit as "guest of host country".

After Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw's participation in the ceremonial opening of the 27th annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Bangkok, the European Union, as well as Australia indicated that they were loosening up in their previously rigid opposition against the military junta.

That was certainly how ASEAN decision-makers, who had been widely criticised for their "constructive engagement" with Rangoon's leadership, saw the European Union's move for "critical dialogue," and Australia's so-called benchmark policy.

But the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) in Rangoon subsequently showed a degree of confidence in its position that some ASEAN and European states found hard to accept.

The confidence was seen as founded on SLORC's better economic position, and its deepening relationship with China, a development which had drawn a previously-critical India to readjust its policy and begin moves for trade with Burma.

India, where Aung San Suu Kyi received part of her formal education, earlier this year gave its own prestigious award to this Nobel Peace laureate of 1991.

Thailand, which has argued strongest for engaging rather than isolating SLORC from the international community, has not been spared the military junta's self-confidence.

Burma's official media was critical of Thailand when the former foreign minister paid an official visit to Rangoon in April. About two months earlier, a German deputy minister cut short a visit there after key persons turned out to be unavailable even though the junta apparently had been aware of the request for some time.

SLORC has also shown an about-turn in relations with US Congressmen. Bill Richardson, who was allowed to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi in February 1994, an event that won worldwide publicity, was denied a second meeting when he went to Rangoon again in May.

The 50-year-old daughter of Aung San, Burma's independence hero, was placed under house arrest on July 20, 1989 for "endangering the safety of the state."

The National League for Democracy which she spearheaded won a landslide victory in elections in 1990, but the military junta in Rangoon did not recognise the results and many of its strongest leaders were subsequently arrested or fled the country.

Her release shows that the military men in Rangoon are not impervious to realities, and is encouraging for those who support her and her cause.

The lady has shown courage, and determination. She has also made clear, in a public statement released in January, that she is for "meaningful dialogue between diverse political forces."

Her release is likely to have been propelled by a combination of reasons. For those wanting the best for Burma, freedom, democracy and human rights, the decision can only be good, if long-overdue.

Return To Democracy Urged

BK1107050995 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Jul 95 p A1

[Comment: "Burma Struggle Still Not Over"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] If there is a beacon of hope for Burma's democracy, it is Aung San Suu Kyi. The female Gandhi who firmly believes in the principles of non-violence to oppose military dictatorship, was placed under house arrest by the Rangoon junta on July 20, 1989.

Even under the most difficult conditions during her house arrest, the Nobel Peace laureate had words of inspiration for her fellow democracy fighters. She once said: "Under the most crushing state machinery, courage rises up again and again, for fear is not the natural state of civilized man."

Yesterday, almost six years later, she was released by her captors.

It has to be borne in mind that the struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma is not over with Suu Kyi's release, for political prisoners are still languishing in Burma's jails.

There is still widespread torture in the country and ethnic minorities are used as forced labour by the military junta in its infrastructure projects, or as porters carrying live ammunition, plainly to act as human-shields in the war against the Karens or the Shans.

Academics, artists, poets, medical doctors and students are still behind bars for having defied the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), by openly clamouring for the rights of the Burmese people to be respected.

While we welcome Suu Kyi's release, a note of caution has to be injected. So far there have been no details of whether or not conditions have been set for her release. We hope not.

Also, there has been no indication that all political detainees will be released together with the Nobel laureate. The writing on the wall is still hard to read. For instance, will the Slorc now recognize the results of the 1990 election in which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won the majority of seats?

This and other important questions need to be answered before the international community pats the Slorc on the back. Unless all political prisoners are released, and the Slorc returns full democracy to the people, the military junta should still be shunned by the civilized world.

Opportunity for Regional Leadership Role Viewed

BK1007123995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Jul 95 p 4

[Article by Anurat Maniphan and Saritdet Marukhathat: "Banhan Granted Opportunity to Secure Regional Leadership"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two important meetings on the regional calendar give the Chat Thai Party-led coalition government a rare chance to secure for Thailand what many see as a long-overdue role as regional leader.

Over the next nine months, Bangkok is due to host two summits. The first, set for December, will bring together the seven heads of member governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The second, which Thailand has offered to host in March 1996, will bring together the heads of government of some 26 Asian and European countries.

The ASEAN summit, the fifth of its kind, will be the first for Vietnam, which later this month becomes the seventh member of what, during Cold War days, was an assembly of anti-communist Governments.

Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand are the six other ASEAN member states.

The second summit will be the first-ever bringing together the heads of government of the seven ASEAN states, 15 European Union members China, Japan and South Korea plus a representative of the European Commission.

The likely membership of the Chat Thai Party-led coalition government has boosted confidence that Thailand will perform well as host of both events.

The confidence largely stems from apparently well-founded reports that the brilliant, former career diplomat M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, will become foreign minister in the coalition government led by Chat Thai leader Banhan Sinlapa-acha.

M.R. Kasemsamoson, who failed to win a parliamentary seat under the Nam Thai Party banner in Bangkok, is well remembered by ASEAN and Indochinese policy-makers, as well as by key men in Washington and Beijing — the latter where he served as Thailand's first ambassador to China from 1975-1979.

After 30 years in foreign service, he had reached the highest possible slot — permanent secretary for foreign affairs — when he retired in 1988.

The likelihood of M.R. Kasemsamoson being backed by Nam Thai Party leader Amnuai Wirawan, an experienced banker tipped as deputy premier in charge of international economic affairs further boosts confidence that Thailand will be able to fulfili its regional leadership potential.

"The timing is on his side," a foreign ministry official said of the opportunity being offered Mr Banhan the prime minister-apparent.

"It is up to him to demonstrate his leadership to secure for Thailand the predominant role at the ASEAN and Asian-European summits," the official said.

Outgoing Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, through his two years and seven months in office, was given one chance, in July 1994 when Bangkok hosted the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

But the Democrat Party leader did not have his man chairing the meeting because he had chosen to give charge of the foreign affairs portfolio to a coalition partner. Surin Phitsuwan (Democrat, Nakhon Si Thammarat) was deputy foreign minister to Prasong-Sunsiri (Phalang Tham, Bangkok).

Partly, if not largely, as a result of this, Thailand fared less than well on what was a world-stage and an unprecedented gathering of former Cold War foes.

The United States, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, the European Union, Australia, Canada and New Zealand joined ASEAN and Indochinese states in the gathering aimed at confidence-building.

During his time in power, Mr Chuan tried to do more to enhance Thailand's position in the region, but it was possibly too little too late.

On June 13, two weeks before the nation went to the polls, the Chuan cabinet approved the establishment of an agency, chaired by a deputy prime minister, to coordinate international economic cooperation.

With the promise of more priority for foreign affairs, and more professional leadership over it in Mr Banhan's forthcoming government, Thailand should perform better, and at more timely junctures.

Most foreign affairs analysts cite Thailand's geographical position as its trump card for regional leadership, which is understood to cover the community of 10 Southeast Asian nations that ASEAN wants to set up.

Cambodia, Laos and Burma will join the community, an event envisaged by ASEAN's founding fathers in 1967, and provided for in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) due to be set up by the year 2003.

Thailand is a winner in terms of geography — and emerging sub- regional economic cooperation arrangements tend to substantiate this, but will this be enough?

Does Thailand have the economic strength to carry it off? Many would say so given Thailand's 8 percent annual economic growth, which is at least equal to that of Singapore or Malaysia, other strong contenders for regional leadership.

Does Thailand have the educated workforce to sustain and improve on this level of growth?

Many political parties perceived this weakness and, during the short weeks of frantic campaigning, promised to raise education standards. Those with seats in the next coalition government are committed to follow through and deliver.

Are Thai leaders in power endowed with the width and depth of vision necessary to give direction to such a large community of nations with their disparate strengths and interests?

Only time will tell.

Even if Thailand can respond positively to the above questions, one other crucial query remains.

Would other regional states accept Thailand's leadership? If not, what would it take for Thailand to win their vote of confidence?

Past records inevitably come into play and, on key regional issues Thailand's performance has not always been well regarded.

Cambodia is a case in point. Although the ASEAN states closed ranks to forge a political settlement to the Cambodian problem, some were unsure, for a certain time, about Thailand's position vis-a-vis the Khmer Rouge.

Part of the doubt stemmed from Thailand's special relationship with China, most recently seen in the way the two countries celebrated 20 years of formal diplomatic relations on July 1 — by televising the two countries' prime ministers on a single programme for viewers in Bangkok and Beijing.

But Thailand's ASEAN neighbours have also seen the value of this relationship. The Philippines sought Thailand's help early on in its dispute with China over Mischief Reef and other islets in the Spratlys chain.

In another current regional issue, Burma, there were initial reservations about Thailand being the first to call for "constructive engagement" with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

But Singapore since has become a leading trade partner with SLORC. Gen Than Shwe, SLORC's chairman visited Singapore last month, and a Burmese community development delegation is currently in Indonesia.

Beyond the doubts of current ASEAN member states, the Indochinese countries are also not completely sure of Thailand's intentions. Lingering doubts among people and decision makers in Indochina stem from what Thailand did during their war with the United States two decades ago.

Thailand allowed the US Air Force to set up half a dozen bases from which they staged bombing missions over Vietnam and Laos.

Some people in Cambodia, which also suffered badly during the war still remember territorial disputes with Thailand dating back further, to the post-World War II Phibunsongkhram era.

To improve sentiment in Indochina, Thailand should not just provide aid, but make sure that help goes where it is most needed, say officials and analysts.

The Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation should change its emphasis from human resources to development projects of real benefit to the grassroots, noted one foreign ministry official.

The official made no specific suggestions but was apparently referring to rural development projects related to agriculture.

"We need to change the attitudes of Indochinese people and this would work if we support projects that benefit them directly," he said.

While successive Thai governments have failed to assert Thailand's regional leadership ability, others in ASEAN have succeeded to make headway.

Malaysia is speeding up plans launched in 1990, to establish Labuan, a small island off Borneo, as a new international offshore financial centre.

"Thailand, which is also improving the system, should monitor the development of Labuan Island closely because it is a potential competitor in the future to Thailand as a financial business centre," warned a recent edition of the "THAI FARMERS BANK JOURNAL".

Labuan, in the South China Sea area, is well placed to serve investors based in ASEAN capital cities, the journal added.

Singapore retains its position as the business hub to Southeast Asia while looking outwards to Indochina South China and Burma. Singapore is also active in India, and is the only ASEAN state involved in efforts to set up a new economic grouping of Indian Ocean Rim countries.

Singapore's discussions with France in October 1994 were the starting point for the forthcoming summit of Asian and European heads of government.

Indonesia's recent chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement gave it continued prominence on the regional and international scene after Jakarta had played a leading role for some years as host and co-chairman of Cambodian peace talks.

The Philippines is gaining strength economically and politically under President Fidel Ramos, although Muslim and communist rebels remain irritants.

Manila also succeeded in bringing regional academics together to draw up a "statement of vision" for a Southeast Asian community of the 21st century. Academics from the desired community of 10 members, including Thailand's Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan and American Affairs Department Director General Sarasin Wiraphon, signed the statement in May last year.

Though joined by thinktank people rather than government officials, the event seemed to have overtaken Thailand, which in July 1993 had urged formally for the establishment of a 10-nation Southeast Asian community at a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Singapore.

With the forthcoming ASEAN and Asian-European summits, there is not question of anyone else taking the opportunity from Thailand to play host. Decisions have been made by the participants-to-be.

The new Chat Thai Party-led government simply has to give the backing needed to make sure Thailand performs well, and shows its eligibility for regional leadership.

Most Local Japanese Companies Hurt by High Yen

BK0607110895 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Jul 95 p B1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More than 60 per cent of Japanese companies, especially those in manufacturing, said the yen appreciation has had an unfavorable influence on their business, while only 14 companies reported a favorable influence from the rise.

The figure is the result of a survey by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce based in Bangkok, which collected the information from 190 Japanese member companies to discover the impact of the yen appreciation on Japanese operations in Thailand between May 25 and June 9.

According to the report, 49 per cent of companies whose activity mainly focuses on export, and 72 per cent of those focusing on imports or the domestic market, responded 'unfavorable'.

The survey revealed that more than four fifths of manufacturing companies focusing mainly on imports or the domestic market claimed an unfavorable influence from the yen's appreciation.

Most companies claimed an increase in production costs through price rises of imported materials, parts and products. Some indicated problems such as an increase in payment of interest and principle on loans from Japan, as well as an easing of competitiveness.

On the other hand, there were some pointing to a favorable impact, such as increase in exports to Japan, windfall benefits from export contracts in yen, and an increase in demand from companies which are shifting their production base from Japan.

To cope with the negative impact of the yen appreciation, companies have introduced measures such as increasing their selling prices, increasing local procurement and rationalization of management.

Most Japanese businessmen here said that for the latter half of 1994, business improved remarkably, more than in the previous survey in November last year. The improvement was attributed to the robust increase in sales and output supported by the strong demand in both domestic and foreign markets.

Although there may be some reaction to the unexpected large expansion in 1994, most businessmen surveyed shared the view that a continuing boom in business conditions is rather difficult to foresee. The increase in production costs due to the recent yen appreciation as well as the favorable domestic market and intense competition will tend to squeeze their profits and make their judgments rather cautious.

At any rate, the survey said that a downward forecast is not prevalent because of an expectation of steady growth in demand.

Sales in 1994 are reported to have increased remarkably, supported by the strong demand both in domestic and foreign markets. This momentum is forecast to continue to 1995 so 91 per cent of the companies surveyed foresaw an increase in their sales.

Of the total companies surveyed, 62 per cent answered that their current profits increased in 1994, especially in the nonmanufacturing industries where 67 per cent saw an improvement.

The turn about of the manufacturing industries, however, showed that one third of companies reported a loss.

In 1995, in general, most companies said they expect an increased profit, especially in the manufacturing sector due to the higher demand.

The most prevailing problems Japanese companies reported facing are difficulty in recruitment of capable people or scarcity of people of ability, price increases in raw materials, wage rises, fluctuations in exchange rates, and competitiveness.

Watthana Makes 'Fruitless' Last Bid for Seat

BK1107034495 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jul 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chat Thai deputy leader Watthana Atsawahem made a last, fruitless, bid for a cabinet post at yesterday's party meeting at parliament.

His colleagues neither supported nor opposed him.

He made his intervention after party leader Banhan Sinlapa-acha explained the procedures involved in nominating the prime minister and the president and vice-president of parliament.

Watthana stood up and demanded "justice and fairness", a source present at the meeting said.

Watthana's complaint lasted an hour, the source said.

He said he had been treated unfairly and that there is no reason for not allocating him a ministerial post.

The party has never helped him, despite the fact that the US has never come up with any evidence to prove the allegations, he said.

The source said Watthana did not insist on being given the post of Interior Minister.

Nobody at the meeting, including Banhan, expressed support for him or opposed him.

At the conclusion of Watthana's plaint at 2 p.m., with the MPs still sitting in silence, Banhan closed the meeting.

No satisfactory response had been given to Watthana.

Later, Watthana told reporters that he insisted on being appointed to the Cabinet.

This, he said, is not just his personal desire but is "in keeping with principles and righteousness".

He released a statement to party members during the meeting affirming his innocence.

The US State Department has hinted that the bilateral relationship could be "complicated' if someone allegedly suspected of involvement in drugs trafficking were appointed to the Cabinet.

It was possible Watthana was one of those being referred to. He was denied a visa to the US because of suspected links to drugs trafficking.

Watthana said he was denied a US visa because he bought a hotel and a department store, Mae Sai Golden Plaza, from a previous owner who was allegedly involved in drugs trafficking.

The Chat Thai deputy leader said he has a "strong intention" to serve the country under the parliamentary system because he is a core member of the party.

He has never done anything wrong, he claimed.

"I didn't enter politics for myself, but for honour and for my family. I intend to spend the rest of my life serving the country," he said.

The US has claimed it has evidence proving the allegations, but when asked to present the information, it could do nothing, he argued.

He said Police director-general Phot Bunyachinda and the secretary-general of the Narcotics Control Board, Pol Gen Chawalit Yotmani, have confirmed that there is no case against him.

He said he has been smeared.

Chat Thai's Bun-Ua Elected as House Speaker

BK1107011495 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jul 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chat Thai deputy leader Bun-ua Prasoetsuwan was elected overwhelmingly as House Speaker yesterday.

Attempts by Chat Phatthana and other caretaker government parties to put up a challenge were unsuccessful.

New Aspiration deputy leader Krit Kongphet was elected First Deputy House Speaker.

Phalang Tham executive Sutham Saengprathum was elected Second Deputy House Speaker.

The House Speaker automatically assumes the post of Parliament President.

His first act is to sound out the parties on their choice for prime minister and submit a name to His Majesty the King for approval.

The caretaker government parties nominated Democrat MP Phichai Rattakun as House Speaker, but the Chat Thai bloc outvoted the Democrat bloc by 231 to 156.

It was the first test of the strength of the government-in-waiting and opposition parties in the new parliament.

Bun-ua, Phichai and Pol Gen [Police General] Praman Adireksan who as the oldest MP presided over the speaker election, abstained.

Nearly all the 391 MPs in the House attended their first meeting yesterday.

Only Chat Phatthana MP for Phet Buri Yut Angkinan was absent.

The meeting followed a ceremony presided over by His Majesty the King at 4.30 p.m. to open Parliament at the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall. The Throne Hall was Thailand's first parliament house.

In a short address, His Majesty told MPs that they have been chosen by the people to administer the country to the utmost benefit of the nation.

Their work will directly affect the progress and security of the nation and the welfare of the people.

"I ask that all of you bear in mind the importance and responsibility of this great burden. Cooperate to carry out your duties to the fullest of your ability, with honesty and with consideration comprising correct reasoning in accordance with legal and moral principles," the King said.

During the first meeting of the House, which started at 5.30 p.m., Chat Phatthana deputy leader Pancha Kesonthong tested the strength of the Chat Thai coalition by proposing that the election of the speaker be held without a roll-call.

He was supported by MPs of the Democrats, Chat Phatthana, Solidarity and Seritham — the caretaker government bloc.

Chat Thai MP for Buriram Chai Chitchop objected and insisted on a roll-call.

He was supported by MPs from Chat Thai, New Aspiration, Phalang Tham, Social Action, Nam Thai, Muanchon and Prachakon Thai — the parties of the prospective coalition.

It took some 40 minutes of debate before the roll-call vote got underway. However, after the results were known, Chat Phatthana put up another challenge.

Its MP for Maha Sarakham Chanchai Chairungruang, argued that the result was void: a total of 382 MPs voted, but only 332 MPs had signed the attendence book and so had not been sworn in at the beginning of the meeting.

Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet replied that a lot of MPs took part in the swearing-in, though they may not have singed the attendence book.

Chat Phatthana deputy leader Athit Kamlang-ek said he had not made it in time to be sworn in. He was sworn in on the spot.

The House then proceeded with the election of the First Deputy Speaker. New Aspiration MP Krit Kongphet defeated Chat Phatthana MP Prasop Busarakham by 228 to 153.

Phalang Tham MP Sutham Saengprathum defeated Seritham MP Sumet Phromphanhao by 225 to 153 for the Second Deputy House Speaker post.

Bun-ua later told reporters that he will start to sound out political parties for the prime minister nominee as soon as the King gives him an appointment as House Speaker.

"How soon I can do that depends on the caretaker prime minister, Chuan Likphai, submitting my name to His Majesty for royal appointment as House Speaker," he said.

Chuan told reporters that normally the government wing of a new parliament foregoes the roll-call vote to get the speaker election over quickly.

"It seems they don't have too much trust for each other and may be afraid of the vote not coming out too well.

"So they chose to go with the roll-call to gauge how their votes would come out," he said.

He said Bun-ua is a good man with a "big heart" and should be able to promote cooperation and compromise between the two benches of the House, as His Majesty has called for.

Central Bank Reports Growing Fiscal Surplus

BK3006140195 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Jun 95 p B10

[Report by Charuwan Loetwinyu]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government's fiscal surplus grew another Bt20.6 billion in May alone to Bt260 billion, the Bank of Thailand reported yesterday.

The healthy government cash balance and disciplined monetary policy have led to budget surpluses for seven consecutive years, helping establish Thailand's long-term debt rating of A and short- term rating of A-1.

The May surplus was the highest so far this year and brought the total accumulated five-month surplus to Bt42.5 billion.

However, foreign creditors are watching the outcome of the Sunday elections closely to see if the next government will maintain or change the current policy. Many political parties have pledged to increase spending and cut taxes to lure voters.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank's Economic Research Department said it plans to completely revise its 1995 economic forecast next week, after all but one of its forecasts failed to accurately portray the economic trends.

While the private investment index for 1995 was expected to rise 10.6 percent, it rallied 15.8 percent during the first five months. Similarly, the manufacturing production index raced ahead by 13.8 percent at the end of May, compared to a forecast of 9.2 percent.

Inflation, now standing at five percent, has exceeded the target of 4.8 percent. Imports rose to 28.6 percent in the same period, a two-fold increase over the 15.4 percent target. Exports also bolstered to 25.2 percent despite forecasts of only 16.5 percent.

Credit extension jumped to 29.3 percent for the first five months of 1995, compared to the 24 percent estimate.

Only bank deposits, which were forecast to increase by 17 percent, came close to the actual rise of 17.5 percent at the end of May.

Dr Bandit Nitthawon, deputy director of the Bank of Thailand's Economic Research Department, admitted that the forecasts have not reflected reality. This, he said, is due to the strength of domestic demand "which is very strong".

Domestic demand can be monitored through two figures — imports and credit extensions. Although imports jumped as much as 28.6 percent despite forecasts of 15.4 percent, Bandit said he was not worried by that as much as he was by the jump in credit extensions.

Commercial banks lent 29.3 percent in the first five months of 1995 more than they did in the same period a year ago. This has declined from January's peak of 30.7 percent.

"The only monetary policy which the bank can use to curb the credit extension is to ensure interest rates are maintained at the same level," he said.

The interest rate trend depends on the U.S. Federal Reserve's decision next week. The industry anticipates that the Fed will cut its rate to boost the U.S. economy.

The problem is that lower interest rates in the U.S. could lead Thai banks to cut their rates as well, a prospect extremely disliked by the central bank, which would prefer interest rates to remain high in an attempt to cool down Thailand's overheating economy. So far, the interbank rate has declined to a five-month low of 10.84 percent after a peak of 14.26 percent in March.

At the same time, Thailand's official foreign reserves increased for the second consecutive month to U.S. $33.3 billion in May, from $31.7 billion in April. However, the characteristics of foreign capital inflows have also changed, Bandit said.

While most inflows in April were loans under the Bangkok International Banking Facilities on those borrowed by local commercial banks, half of the money which flowed in last month was in the form of non-resident baht accounts and portfolio investments, the "footloose" hot money.

Strength of demand aside, Thailand's economy is running at full stream due to another two factors.

First, the private investment index has risen for the tenth consecutive month by 15.8 percent, thanks to a Bt285 billion increase in large infrastructure projects.

Second, exports during the first five months hit Bt532 billion, a 25.2 percent rise from the same period last year. The big jump was due to the fact that Thailand has been able to penetrate new export markets.

By excluding Japan and the U.S., Thai exports to new markets increased to 36 percent of the total market share.

Meanwhile, although imports rallied by 28.6 percent, or Bt667.2 billion, in the first five months of 1995, Bandit said that 47 percent of the non-oil imports were capital goods, while less than 10 percent were consumer products.

"Although huge imports will widen the trade deficit in the short- term, in the long-run this reflects active investment in Thailand, which will become the production base for us in a few years time," he insisted.

Thailand recorded a current trade deficit of Bt135.5 billion in the first five months of the year.

Official Confident About New Cigarette Law

BK0607120095 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Jul 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The permanent secretary at the Public Health Department is confident that, despite the change of government, the law requiring cigarette firms to disclose the ingredients of their products will be enforced soon.

Withun Saengsingkaeo said that as soon as the law has been considered by the Council of State, it will be passed to the Cabinet for approval.

Tobacco manufacturers prefer to keep their ingredients secret, but the ministry insists that it should be informed in the interests of public health.

"This will be considered an urgent matter. The new health minister will be informed and the law will be enforced," Dr Withun said.

He is sure that the new minister will consider it important to enforce the law and that he will consider it one of the Government's main policies in the public interest.

The director-general of the Medical Services Department, Wutthikit Thanaphum, said tobacco firms should not have any difficulty disclosing the ingredients of their cigarettes.

The ministry has given an assurance that the information will remain confidential.

Wutthikit said the ministry will not be deterred by continuous lobbying from international tobacco firms.

Outgoing Public Health Minister Athit Urairat said details of the law have been approved by the Cabinet, and there should not be any problems.

He said that the Council of State is only considering the wording of the law and not the technical details.

"If everything is done according to procedure, the law will be enforced soon. If not, it means there is something wrong somewhere," Dr Athit said.

A press release sent to several newspapers recently stated that the Council of State disapproved of the law.

The release did not mention where it was from, but stated that the law misquoted the Tobacco Products Control Act and therefore could not be enforced.

The secretary-general of the National Committee for Control of Tobacco Use, Prakit Wathesathotkit, confirmed that the release was not sent by the ministry, and that the matter was still being considered by the Council of State.

He said it is not possible for the Council of State to reject the law, for they did not consider it in detail.

The press release claimed that the ministry was inefficient in drafting laws, for another law, on compulsory enforcement of generic names of drugs, has also initially been rejected by the Council of State.

The press release also stated that revealing ingredients of tobacco products would not be of use to the public and therefore was not necessary.

Dr Prakit expressed confidence that the law would be enforced soon.

Army To Buy Personnel Carriers From U.S.

BK0307064795 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 2 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government handed its approval for the army to buy 85 armoured personnel carriers worth some 2,000 million baht at the cabinet meeting last week, reliable sources said yesterday.

According to the sources the "approval in principle" was given during the cabinet meeting last Tuesday but the press was not informed about it. However, the cabinet also ordered the Budget Bureau to negotiate the price with the United States because it was felt that the quoted price was some 800 million baht too high.

The revelation came as the Chuan Likphai caretaker government is set to approve another army request to buy 101 second-hand M60A3 tanks worth 1,776.8 million baht.

The approval is expected to be given at its unprecedented cabinet meeting scheduled for July 4—two days after Sunday's general election. On that day 20 issues will be presented to the cabinet, with only 4 of them for acknowledgement while 16 matters, including the purchase of the tanks, will be seeking cabinet approval.

Sources said the 85 new armoured personnel carriers were sought as a replacement for the British Scorpion light tanks which faced operational problems because the cannons placed on them were too big and caused the armour to crack when firing.

The armoured carriers were at first proposed for acquisition through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme but because of their high price the army is now switching to cash buys on installment basis.

But according to the National Economic Policy Committee, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak, purchases over 1,000 million baht will have to involve counter-trade which would involve the Foreign and the Commerce Ministries as well.

For the moment the Budget Bureau is first to negotiate the price down from 2,000 million baht because it is believed that the deal should be worth only about 1,200 million baht.

The purchase of the M60A3 tanks, which will seek cabinet approval next Tuesday, are to be procured between 1995-1998. The 101 tanks to be bought are those being decommissioned by the US from its forces in NATO. As such their prices are cheaper than the 85 new armoured personnel carriers.

The army wanted to buy the tanks through the FMS and through counter trade. However, the US turned this offer down saying that the tanks were already being sold cheaply at a special price and this included overhauling them for the Thai army. As such, the US would not accept counter trade.

Sources said that this may not necessarily be a problem for the Thai army because exceptions can be made to the regulations requiring counter trade in special cases.

Vietnam

Recent Diplomatic Activities Reviewed

BK1007160595 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Unattributed "essay"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends: Bustling external relations activities in the first six months of the year are evidence of the success of our country's diversified and multilateral foreign policy, which is continuing to reap positive results and create more conditions for Vietnam to further integrate into the international community. Here we will review Vietnam's major external relations activities in the past six months.

Consistently loyal to the open-door policy and on the foundation of diplomatic achievement in 1994, relations between Vietnam and other countries in the world continued to advance on a fine path in early 1995.

Relations with the United States played an important part of Vietnam's external relations activity in early 1995. February 1995 witnessed an important landmark in Vietnam-United States relations with the opening of liaison offices in the two respective capitals. Public opinion holds that though this event was not yet the indication of the ultimate end of tensions between the two countries, which have been going on for 20 years, it improved the situation significantly. The presence in Vietnam of Senators John McCain, John Kerry, Christopher Bond; the attendance of other U.S. senator delegations at the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam; and especially the visits by the U.S. Government envoy and the assistant secretary of state for international narcotics; are evidence of the positive dialogue process between the two countries. The U.S. side highly valued the positive efforts by Vietnam in cooperating with Americans in the settlement of the missing servicemen or MIA's. In the recent past, Vietnam has handed over to the Americans over 200 documents and maps that will help to provide more information on missing Americans. It has also participated in joint searches that resulted in the recovery of 16 sets of remains of missing American servicemen. The peoples of the two countries as well as people worlwide are awaiting the final decision of the United States Government on the normalization of relations with Vietnam.

Also in early 1995, Vietnam actively prepared for its official admittance to ASEAN this July. The tour of Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam to ASEAN member countries in February was for this purpose. ASEAN member countries themselves also have showed an ever increasing interest in Vietnam, reflected in the third

Vietnam visit of Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kwan Yew in March, and the visit by Indonesian Trade Minister Satrio Budiarjo. ASEAN also formed a special working group to consider Vietnam's application to join the ASEAN Free Trade Area or AFTA. By setting up its embassy in Brunei, Vietnam now has embassies in all the Southeast Asian countries.

Impediments between Vietnam and its neighboring countries have been attended to. The visit by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam to China opened wider the opportunity for cooperation between the two countries in the economic field as well as for a resolution of the border problems.

Relations with Cambodia have continued to improve. Cambodian First Premier Prince Ranariddh paid an official visit to Vietnam in January. The event that drew much attention from the public in the first six months of this year, was that Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia overcame all the obstacles and resumed the activities of the Mekong River Committee after a suspension of many years. Burmese Prime Minister Than Shwe's official visit in March has created the foundation for the two countries to widen cooperation.

Regarding other countries in the Asia Pacific, the official visits in April to South Korea and Japan by party General Secretary Do Muoi are important steps that raised Vietnam's relations with the two countries to higher levels. Also in April, Vietnam welcomed His Excellency Governor General Bill Hayden and an Australian Parliament delegation. In May, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam visited Mongolia and represented the government in the signing of new cooperation agreements with Mongolia.

Another Vietnam's success in external relations activity in early 1995 was the signing of cooperation agreement with the EU after many delays. Relations between Vietnam and EU countries go back many years and have been constantly developed. In early 1995, there were many exchanges of diplomatic delegations between Vietnam and these countries: the delegation led by the British chancellor of the exchequer in January; the delegation of the German economic minister in April; and the delegation of the Netherlands prime minister, Wim Kok, in late June. From Vietnam, there were: the delegation in early May of President Le Duc Anh attending the celebration of the anniversary of the victory over fascism; and the delegation led by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visiting north European countries in late May-early June.

Traditional relations with East Europe and former U.S.S.R. states continued to develop. Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong visited Russia and Belarus. In further fulfilling the diversification and multilateralization policy, Vietnam has also expanded it relations with African and Middle East countries with the visits to Kuwait and Syria by President Le Duc Anh. On this occasion, a number of trade and economic cooperation agreements were signed. The Iranian foreign minister also visited Vietnam to study the expansion of relations between the two countries. And recently, Vietnam welcomed the Iraqi vice president on his official visit.

The visit to African countries in March by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam also showed the potential for development of the cooperative relations between Vietnam and countries in this continent.

This year Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with three countries: Bahrain, Belize, and Paraguay, bringing the number of countries having diplomatic relations with Vietnam to 154. In addition, Vietnam has actively participated in the activities of international organizations, such as in the multilateral fora of United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the organization of French speaking countries, and so forth.

Busy external relations activities in the first six months of 1995 in all regions prove that Vietnam now enjoys a significant position in the world with ever increasing international prestige, which is a good foundation for further integration into the world community.

Malaysian Information Minister Pays Visit

BK0707140095 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and his entourage arrived in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday. He held a meeting with Vo Tran Chi, Communist Party of Vietnam's Central Committee secretary. [title as heard] Mr. Vo stressed that Vietnam would like to increase cooperation with Malaysia in all fields. The objective is to learn about Malaysia's amazing success in national development implemented through the Barisan Nasional [National Front] charter.

Datuk Mohamed Rahmat is on a three-day visit to Ho Chin Minh City.

Australian Development Minister Arrives

BK1007121595 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's minister for development cooperation, Gordon Bilney, has started a visit to Vietnam, the fourth largest recipient of Australian aid. Christopher Kremmer reports from Hanoi that Mr. Bilney is to have talks on Australia's $150 million [Australian dollars] aid commitment to Vietnam.

[Begin Kremmer recording] Mr. Bilney hopes to use his first official visit to Vietnam to inspect the site of the proposed second Australian bridge across the Mekong River, Australia's single largest overseas aid project. Vietnam and Cambodia have agreed that the My Thuan Bridge currently undergoing a feasibility study will be 37.5 meters high, casting doubts on the economic viability of the project. A similar bridge built in Laos remained underutilized due to restrictions on movement of traffic imposed by the Lao Government. Mr. Bilney arrived in Hanoi overnight and his official program begins today with calls on senior ministers and officials. [end recording]

Malian Chairman Pays Official Visit

BK1007080595 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 9 July, Malian National Assembly Chairman Professor Ali Nou Houm Diallo arrived in Hanoi for an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh.

Following a solemn ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi to welcome the Malian guests, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh held talks with his Malian counterpart.

Chairman Diallo, on behalf of his entourage, expressed delight in having the chance to visit Hanoi and Vietnam, the country that accorded victories in various struggling stages for national independence and freedom, thereby setting a lofty example for other nations which are struggling for peace, national independence, democracy, and social development. He thanked the Vietnamese National Assembly for its warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Malian delegation.

Party Delegation Visits Uzbekistan

BK1107025595 Hanoi VNA in English 1559 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA July 10 — A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Nguyen Van Chi, member of the CPV Central Committee paid a visit to Uzbekistan from July 4-8 at the invitation of the Central Council of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan.

While there,the Vietnamese delegation held talks with a delegation f the host party led by M. Dzalolov, first secretary of the party Central Council. The two sides informed each other of the situation in each country and party. They shared the same view that contacts and development of the relations between the two parties would play an important role in restoration and development of the traditional solidarity, friendship and cooperations between the two peoples.

The delegation had working sessions with the Foreign Ministry, the party committee and authorities of the capital Tashkent and other provinces. It also visited a number of economic and cultural establishments.

Assembly Standing Committee Meets

BK0907135695 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly Standing Committee met in Hanoi from 26 June-6 July under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh.

1. The committee adopted the regulations on actions to be taken against administrative violations to replace the regulations on punitive actions against administrative violations promulgated by the Council of State in 1989. This is an important document because it directly involves the rights and interests of organizations and citizens and positively helps check and prevent violations against the law, firmly maintain social order and security, strengthen the socialist legal system, and improve the efficiency of state management while at the same time contributing to heightening the people's awareness of the need to abide by the law. The committee also adopted the regulations on amending Article 6 of the law on the Vietnam People's Police Force to guarantee the effectiveness of state management over road, waterway, and railway traffic safety and order and over urban traffic safety and order.

The committee gave its views on a number of important issues relating to the amendments to and fundamental contents of the draft civil code. The committee stressed the need to use the initial suggestions of National Assembly deputies, people, sectors, and echelons to perfect this legal document for submission to the next session of the National Assembly. The committee also gave its views on the draft regulations on civil service.

2. The committee heard a government report on the fulfillment of the tasks for the first half of 1995 and on a number of measures to implement tasks for the latter half of the year. The committee took into account the fact that the socioeconomic situation in the first six months of the year has continued to develop well. Nonetheless, there was still room for improvement, especially in the areas of money, pricing, investment, and capital construction.

The committee suggested that the government continue directing the successful implementation of the tasks for the latter half of 1995 based on the National

Assembly Resolution. The committee also requested National Assembly organs and deputies to make positive contributions to the successful implementation of the tasks for 1995.

3. The committee heard a government report on the implementation of the law on land and on proposals for amending or supplementing a number of articles of this law or promulgating a number of new legal documents pertaining to this law. The committee stressed: Many problems have been raised from the realities of the implementation of the law on land. Therefore, continued efforts are needed to study and resolve those problems. Steps must be taken to perfect the legal documents on law and establish order and discipline through land use management.

4. The committee heard a report on the results of the movement to respond to the people's aspirations so far. The committee acknowledged that though the movement to respond to the people's aspirations has scored some results, difficult and complicated problems still abound. The movement has yielded very limited results. The committee reminded the relevant agencies at the central and local levels of the need to coordinate action and affect the necessary changes in settling complaints and allegation letters filed by citizens.

5. The committee gave its views on the preparations for the Ninth National Assembly Eighth Session in terms of time and duration. To guarantee results for the session, the committee instructed National Assembly organs to coordinate closely with government agencies in making urgent preparations for the agenda of the session.

6. The committee heard a report on the results of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visits to Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Iceland from 28 May-9 June and the results of Dutch Prime Minister Willem Kok's visit to Vietnam from 2-14 June. The committee highly valued the results of the visits because they made important contributions to the implementation of our state's foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, and diversification and multilateralization of diplomatic activities in addition to helping with the promotion of cooperation and friendship between our nation and the aforementioned countries.

Precincts Prepare for Party Congresses

BK1007040195 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 20 Jun 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Since mid-June 1995, the third precinct party committee has begun preparations for the party congresses of party organizations, party installations, and the seventh third precinct party organization. To date, the precinct has formed subcommittees to prepare the congress agenda, select delegates to attend the congresses, and supervise their organization. Grassroots establishments have solicited views to help party organizations prepare reports to be presented to the congresses. The precinct has also prepared special reports to wrap up the results of the implementation of the seventh party Central Committee Third, Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Plenum Resolutions; Resolution 8B of the party Central Committee Sixth Plenum, and Resolution No. 07-08 BCT on mass mobilization work. The congress agenda subcommittee will also prepare a number of special reports on economic and cultural development, national defense and security, party building work, and so forth.

The 10th precinct party committee has set up subcommittees to select personnel to attend the congresses and prepare draft documents. It has also directed the selected personnel to attend precinct and city party congresses. To date, all party installations have finished preparing for grassroots party congresses. Four seminars have been held to discuss special issues relating to socioeconomic and cultural development, national security and defense, and consolidation of the political system. To prepare documents for submission to the upcoming party congresses, the precinct has prepared local socioeconomic and cultural development projects till the year 2000 and derived experiences from the implementation of Resolution 8B. To realistically welcome the party congresses at all levels, the 10th precinct has initiated movements to preserve the environment, build public utility projects, and improve the living conditions of social welfare program beneficiaries and needy people. The initial steps have already been taken to implement projects like the 10th precinct cultural center, a technical school, the Ly Thuong Kiet business center, and various housing facilities.

Decision on State Enterprise Assets Signed

BK1007132495 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 7 July, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khan signed prime minister's decision No. 397-TTG on the transfer of authority in managing capital and assets of state-run enterprises.

The decision said that the Ministry of Finance is charged with the duty of managing state capital and assets of various enterprises. Various ministries, ministerial level agencies, organizations attached to the government, and people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government are duty-bound to transfer authority in managing capital and assets of their attached enterprises to the Ministry of Finance.

Financial cadres working at enterprises of ministries, ministerial level agencies, organizations attached to the government, and the pricing offices and financial and accounting services of provinces and municipalities will be rearranged and transferred to the Ministry of Finance.

The transfer must be completed before 30 September this year. As from 1 October, the Ministry of Finance will take responsibility for managing capital and assets of state-run enterprises.

This decision is effective from the date of its promulgation. Previous regulations against this decision are herewith rescinded.

Party Official Directs Congress Organization

BK0907124795 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking to organization cadres of provincial party committees of Nam Ha, Hai Hung, Ha Tay, Haiphong, and Thai Binh, after reviewing party work in three pilot districts of Thai Binh Province, Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and director of Central Committee's Organization Department, pointed out that party congresses for this office term at grassroots level have special importance. This is the reason why the organization of the congresses this time should not be done in the same way as previous ones. Real changes should be seen.

The grassroots congress should aim to heighten people's awareness of new viewpoints, which in turn will create positive changes in all local activities. This will make districts, precincts, and villages stable and strong in all fields. The two main objectives are economic development, which resulted in improved livelihood of the people, and the strengthened relations between the party and the people. Once these objectives are achieved, even the most wicked plot of our enemies will be doomed.

Vo Van Kiet Urges Coal Industry Development

BK0507154695 Hanoi VNA in English 0642 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA July 5 — The coal industry should strive to work effectively to its plan in order to meet the demand for at least 10 million tonnes of coal per year from now to the year 2000, Prime Minister [PM] Vo Van Kiet said recently.

The Vietnam Coal Corporation [VCC] and authorities of coal mining provinces must work out detailed plans to produce more coal (with an average annual increase of 10 percent) to serve the electricity and cement industry, and the development of other economic sectors, pm kiet told a recent meeting. The meeting was attended by officials of the coal industry and other central or local relevant bodies and was held in Ha Long City, in Quang Ninh Province.

After hailing efforts made over the past 12 months by VCC, the coal companies of Dong Bac and Quang Ninh, and the local authorities, PM Kiet stressed that the coal industry should diversify its production and business activities to achieve the planned target. However this must be done in an appropriate scale and manner, and taking environment protection into account, he said.

The VCC, in the first half of this year, produced 4.2 million tonnes of clean coal, including more than 1.4 million tonnes exported to Southeast Asia, Western Europe and other traditional markets.

Regarding the establishment of order in coal production, the Vietnamese PM called for drastic measures to stop 'pirates' coal who ilegally mine coal and to develop a policy on job-creation for local people, as well as solving technology and investment problems in the industry.

Australia

Government Views Release of Aung San Suu Kyi

Release Urged

BK1007011095 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Government has issued a fresh warning to Burma's military regime over the continued detention of opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. Evan Williams reports from Rangoon:

[Begin Williams recording] Australia has called for Aung San Suu Kyi's unconditional release from house detention, saying there is no legal justification for her continued arrest beyond the next two weeks. The regime told Australia it is giving Suu Kyi's case serious consideration. Her sixth year of detention expires soon, forcing the regime to either ignore the law or continue her arrest under new rules just before they attend the ASEAN meeting in Brunei.

In a long statement, one of the most senior junta members Friday signalled a continuation of current policies, including Suu Kyi's detention, but there is intense speculation here of further statements this week. [end recording]

Evans Praises Release

BK1107061895 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Passage omitted on details of Aung San Suu Kyi's release] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has told a news conference in Jerusalem where he is on an official visit the release of Ms. Suu Kyi is an important step.

[Begin Evans recording] She showed absolutely remarkable courage and dedication to her country over the six years she has been incarcerated under house arrest. She has been a symbol of all that is decent and the repression has been the symbol of everything else. So, for the regime to have taken the step of releasing her is an enormously important one. [end recording] [passage omitted on Aung San Suu Kyi's husband's reaction to release]

Ambassador on Jakarta-Canberra Relationship

BK0907132795 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indonesia's outgoing ambassador to Australia says the relationship between the two countries is healthy despite recurring friction over East Timor. Ambassador Sabam Siagian is about to return to Indonesia after serving four years in Canberra. He denies that the bilateral relationship is dominated by East Timor and the Dili massacre but admits there remains a sense of tension. The ambassador has also played down the significance of Jakarta's decision to withdraw its ambassadorial nominee to Canberra over comments he made defending the Indonesian military's role in the massacre. Ambassador Siagian says the problem of General Mantiri's nomination is a temporary messiness and stresses that the Australia-Indonesia relationship is strong enough to survive.

[Begin Siagian recording] There is now a reasonable (?firm base) so that the relationship can cope with this temporary messiness, and I think there has been (?many visits) by the prime minister's (?people), of course, was preliminary work established by the two prime ministers. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Keating Explains Opposition to French Tests

AU1007111695 Berlin DIE WELT in German 10 Jul 95 p 5

[Article by Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating: "Relapse Into Colonialism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Australia and its citizens, and the peoples and governments of many other countries, are outraged about the French Government's announcement that it intends to resume nuclear testing in Mururoa. I believe the French people will understand such feelings very well.

The mood in the South Pacific countries is general: If France has to test these weapons, it should do so on its internal territory. Whatever the French Government intends to achieve with these actions, they are seen by the overwhelming majority of the people in this region as a big nation's attack on the rights of smaller ones. The decision to resume the tests is inevitably regarded as a return to old colonial attitudes. This is all the more tragic since most recently France's relations with the countries in the region have become much more positive and fruitful.

Neither Australia nor the other countries in the region want France to withdraw from the Pacific. On the contrary, we want to cooperate closely and well with it. However, it is one of the lamentable consequences of this decision that many people in the region now doubt the legitimacy of France's role.

The rage and frustration of the Australians is all the greater in view of the history that we share with France. French ships were present when Australia was first settled by Europeans. French explorers, scientists, and artists were outstanding among those who explored the Australian coasts and shaped the Australian landscape.

French culture has had an essential influence on our own cultural development. And twice in this century Australians fought in France. During World War I Australian and New Zealand per-capita losses on French battlefields were higher than those of any other combatant — and this experience had a decisive influence on Australian development. The names of these battlefields are part of Australia's history and lore.

Australia's concern is increased further by the additional responsibility that arises this year from our role as chairman of the 15 members in the South Pacific Forum. In this function we speak on behalf of all countries in the region; many of them are small and economically vulnerable and all of them have a deep material and spiritual relationship with the Pacific Ocean.

I am convinced that I speak for the members of the Forum when I continue to urge France to rescind its decision and when I stress that in this case it would gain considerable prestige not only in the South Pacific countries but among all the peoples in the world.

The French Government has mentioned the safety of the environment with regard to the tests in Mururoa. However, we are most deeply concerned about the possibility of accidents. And no one can foresee the long-term dangers that arise from a potential destruction of the sensitive atoll structures during the tests.

Australia's reaction is neither precipitate nor a mere reflex. Australia can point to a long history of responsible diplomatic efforts with regard to nuclear issues. Together with the other South Pacific countries, in the 1970's Australia opposed France's atmospheric tests and, upon our initiative, the South Pacific nuclear-free zone was established in 1985.

Australia has also been active regarding nuclear issues in the United Nations and in other international forums. Often, we acted in close cooperation with France, in particular since President Mitterrand's highly welcome decision to declare a nuclear test moratorium in 1992. These efforts were continued on 11 May with the decision by the international community to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] for an unlimited period — an important element for the safety of our two countries.

Neither Australia nor any other country has the right to define France's security; however, given the circumstances, the French will certainly permit me to explain why, in our view, France's action is not good for France or for the world.

We believe that these tests endanger our efforts to preserve the effectiveness of the NPT and to achieve universal membership. For the unlimited extension of this treaty it was decisive that a "declaration of principles and goals on nonproliferation and disarmament" was simultaneously negotiated and adopted by all states involved, including the nuclear states.

This declaration announced the speedy conclusion — by 1996 at the latest — of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. And until such a treaty comes into effect the nuclear states have committed themselves to "extreme restraint."

However, "extreme restraint" regarding nuclear tests hardly applies to a program of eight tests. France's decision will certainly make many non-nuclear states wonder about the honesty of all nuclear states.

This will harm the treaty's credibility, which must be preserved if some states, which have not yet signed it, are to be persuaded to do so.

The decision will also increase the problems in the negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. Despite President Chirac's gratifying statement that France will sign such a treaty, there is the serious danger that the very difficult treaty negotiations that we are facing in Geneva will become even more difficult.

In particular France's position as a responsible and leading power in the world means that any new French test will play into the hands of potential arms dealers and that any test will make many of those countries hesitate whose support we need to conclude a comprehensive treaty.

We know the arguments for France's nuclear capacity and the strategic dimensions of a nuclear power very well. We argue not merely on the basis of emotions when we say that the biggest responsibility for us all is the one to keep alive the hope for a nuclear-free world, which was born when the Cold War ended. The burden of this responsibility rests most heavily on the nuclear states, particularly after the unlimited extension of the NPT.

And in view of the nuclear experiences in Europe, the biggest challenge for leadership certainly is right in front of Europe's own door. The damaged Chernobyl reactor may have been encased in a sarcophagus, but there are still another 20 reactors with similar design flaws on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Dozens of nuclear-powered submarines of the former Soviet fleet are now idle. Nuclear material and nuclear expert knowledge are leaking from the former Soviet Union into illegal markets.

These dangers, as well as the stocks of dismantled nuclear weapons and contaminated areas, are not precisely banished by the development of further nuclear weapons capacities. But France's top international skills in nuclear science and technology could help. How much more respect would France gain and how much more useful would it be if the country were not to concentrate its skills and energy on countering a purely hypothetical threat but on meeting a real threat!

I do not doubt that the Australians want to make it known in France that their attitude is in no way determined by hostility toward the French people or the French nation. Our opposition specifically refers to the French Government's decision to resume the nuclear tests in the Pacific.

In the past Australia's attitude was sometimes understood as an expression of some kind of Anglo-Saxon hostility toward France. However, Australia is certainly not an Anglo-Saxon enclave in the Asia-Pacific region. As the many French who live in Australia can confirm, Australia is a rich multicultural society, in which half of the immigrants come from Asian countries. It is clear that many of these French inhabitants of Australia think that the French Government should rescind its decision.

If they live on Australia's east coast, they know that there is an enormous difference between studying a map of the Pacific in Europe and actually living on the shores of the ocean in Sydney or Brisbane or Auckland. The map shows these places to be far away from Mururoa. However, if one lives in these places, one knows that the South Pacific — no matter how gigantic it is — constitutes a single environment and links everyone who participates in it. The community spirit that the Pacific Ocean gives us is similar to the one given to France by the idea of "Europe." It is the fundamental reason for our opposition to France's decision to resume the tests and for the fact that Australia and its partners in the South Pacific Forum will not stop emphatically presenting our views to the French Government and conveying to the French people, if we can, the depth of our feelings.

French Block Mururoa Lagoon With Cables

LD1107102795 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The French Navy is laying cables acoss the mouth of the lagoon at the Mururoa nuclear test site. Officials in the French Polynesian capital, Papeete, confirmed that the armed forces commander on Mururoa, Admiral Philippe Euvert, wants to stop any further incursions by anti-nuclear vessels. They expressed doubts about a Greenpeace claim that three activists from the environmental group are still at large near the Mururoa Atoll test site on an inflatable dinghy. [passage omitted]

Erina Reddan reports that the Rainbow Warrior, which was released from custody at the atoll and towed into internaional waters, is now sitting just outside the military zone. [passage omitted]